



AFGHANISTAN REPORT

NO. 56

DECEMBER 1988

**CRISIS & CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM
THE INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES
SECTOR F-5/2, P. O. BOX 1173,
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**CRISIS AND CONFLICT ANALYSIS TEAM (CCAT)
AFGHANISTAN**

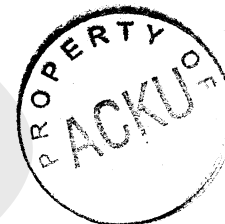
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1. The Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team comprises of leading academicians, strategists, researchers and policy analysts interested in the study of international relations. The members of this team meet periodically in groups; one team is devoted to the study of the Afghan crisis and conflict. In the light of carefully monitored information each group reviews current developments in its respective conflict area, and offers various policy options for consideration. While the Institute of Strategic Studies provides the forum, coordinates research and publishes the findings of the Crisis and Conflict Analysis Team, it does not necessarily share the views expressed by the team members whose participation in this group is in their individual capacity.

2. The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, collation, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all the parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Afghan, Soviet, and other Embassy handouts, and information received from the Afghan Documentation Centre, Afghan Information Centre, the Afghan Islamic Press, and the Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are aware of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up in the Mujahideen, as present in regular armies.

— Editor

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**IJAZ S. GILANI
FAZAL-UR-RAHMAN**

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ACRONYMS

AAP	=	Agency Afghan Press (Mujahideen).
AAPSO	=	Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organization.
AAWC	=	All Afghanistan's Women Council.
ADBA	=	Agricultural Development Bank of Afghanistan.
ALA	=	Association of Lawyers of Afghanistan.
APC	=	Armoured Personnel Carrier.
CC	=	Central Committee.
CP	=	Communist Party.
RA	=	Republic of Afghanistan.
DYOA	=	Democratic Youth Organization of Afghanistan.
HIS	=	Haqiqat-e-Inqilab-e-Saur ('The Truth of the Saur Revolution'), daily newspaper.
HMV	=	Heavy Military Vehicles.
IHT	=	International Herald Tribune.
ICRC	=	International Committee of the Red Cross.
KHAD	=	State Secret Service.
KT	=	The Kabul Times.
LOSPA	=	Local Organs of State Power and Administration.
NF	=	National Front.
PDPA	=	Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan.
POA	=	Pioneers Organization of Afghanistan.
PSFO	=	Peace, Solidarity and Friendship Organization.
RC	=	Revolutionary Council.
SAFS	=	Soviet Afghan Friendship Society.
TUA	=	Trade Unions of Afghanistan.
UJA	=	Union of Journalists of Afghanistan.
UNESCO	=	United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization.
UNGA	=	United Nations General Assembly.
VFA	=	Voice of Free Afghanistan.
VOA	=	Voice of America.
VOG	=	Voice of Germany.
VOIR	=	Voice of Islamic Revolutionary Afghanistan (reportedly based in Iran).
WDS	=	Western Diplomatic Sources.
WHO	=	World Health Organization.
YPO	=	Young Pioneer's Organization.
'Jehad'	=	To strive, struggle, resist, fight against, as an article of Faith. One of the main tenets of Islam.
'Mujahideen'	=	Those who take part in Jihad against oppression and aggression, as an article of faith.
'Jirga'	=	Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Loi Jirga'	=	National Assembly of Tribal Elders.
'Afghanis'	=	Afghan Currency.

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2 — NOTEABLE MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS

Ningarhar

Mujahideen launched a major offensive in Ningarhar on October 30, capturing a number of Kabul army camps and security posts, including the Pakistan-Afghanistan border customs check-point at Torkham on November 3. On November 8, the important district headquarters and garrison town of Ghanikhel was taken. Here more than 100 troops joined the Mujahideen, and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized. In the course of the next few days the Mujahideen triumphantly entered Samarkhel and Radat districts. At one point of time they controlled almost 35 miles long stretch of Torkham-Jalalabad road.

The Soviet-Kabul armour, supported by aircrafts, however, counter-attacked and rolled Mujahideen detachments back to Torkham. Scud missiles fired from Kabul vicinity also hit Mujahideen bases in Ningarhar. Soviet-Kabul tanks were back in Torkham on November 14.

Nevertheless, the Mujahideen recaptured Torkham in another offensive on November 25.

Along the Salang Highway

During the month of November, Mujahideen carried out several attacks along the Salang Highway passing through Parwan, Baghlan, Kunduz and Samangan provinces. The Mujahideen claimed they had destroyed a large number of tanks and trucks. Commander Ahmed Shah Masoud was quoted as having said that these attacks were in response to the recent induction by the Soviets of MiG-27 and Scud missiles to the Afghanistan War. Major Mujahideen attacks were carried out between Baghlan and Mazar-e-Sharif in the north and close to Kabul in Parwan, south of the Salang Tunnels network. There was serious scarcity of consumer goods in Kabul as a consequence.

Qandahar

Soviet-made planes bombarded Mujahideen positions in the outskirts of Qandahar on November 1, 3 and 8, in order to check their advance to the Airport. They were reported to be only 200 metres from the city's Security Belt. Scud missiles were also fired on them. Apparently, the new weapons were not as effective as the Soviets might have hoped they would be: but, both the Mujahideen and civilian population suffered losses.

Soviet-made aircraft, apparently inadvertently, bombed a government hospital, killing about 100 doctors, nurses and patients.

There was also a mutiny in the Qandahar garrison on November 22. Moscow Radio reported: A coup attempt was made at Qandahar in the South of Afghanistan on November 22. Some of the military men in the province betrayed the interests of the state and tried to lead the extremists, numbering 400 men, to enter the local army headquarters. But the loyal soldiers and officers anticipating treachery laid an ambush. After a bitter clash the rebels retreated.

Farah

An unusually high tempo of fighting was reported from Farah and Herat provinces adjoining Iran. In Farah province, the Mujahideen launched 29 operations. These mainly were directed against Soviet-Kabul supply convoys and detachments on the Qandahar-Herat highway. Possibly, the Mujahideen were trying to create a wider Liberated Zone on the Iranian border, like the one they have on the Afghan frontier with Pakistan. The Qandahar-Herat road is vital to the Soviet-Kabul authorities positions in Qandahar as the Qandahar-Kabul road has already been cut at several points in Zabul and Ghazni provinces.

Military Positions and Towns Captured by Mujahideen (November 1988)

<i>Place</i>	<i>Province</i>	<i>Date</i>
Kajaki Garrison	Hilmand	28-10-88
Sardah Dam	Qandahar	06-11-88
Landi Khyber Garrison	Ningarhar	31-10-88
Torkham Post	Ningarhar	02-11-88
Baswal district	Ningarhar	04-11-88
Nazian district Headquarters	Ningarhar	08-11-88
Ghaziabad Post	Ningarhar	08-11-88
Kahi district	Ningarhar	08-11-88
Batikut sub-district	Ningarhar	08-11-88
Sur Khwar Post	Ningarhar	08-11-88
Ghaziabad district	Ningarhar	08-11-88
Achin district	Ningarhar	08-11-88
Summer Khel Military Headquarters	Ningarhar	20-11-88
Rodat district	Ningarhar	21-11-88
Shahr Shahee district	Ningarhar	21-11-88
Dakka	Ningarhar	21-11-88
Deh Bala sub-divisional Headquarters	Ningarhar	21-11-88
Torkham	Ningarhar	25-11-88

Place	Province	Date
Ghosta district Headquarters	Ningarhar	25-11-88
Baredkab Garrison	Ningarhar	26-11-88
Chayabi Village	Baghlan	14-11-88
Gulran sub-divisional Headquarters	Herat	22-11-88
Qarabagh sub-divisional Headquarters	Herat	22-11-88
Farsi district Headquarters	Farah	04-11-88
Alinagar	Laghman	20-10-88
Total: Districts and Sub-districts		14
Garrisons		5
Towns		5

3 — PROVINCEWISE SURVEY ANALYSIS

Nimroz

Mujahideen sources: During the first week of November, the Mujahideen attacked regime military establishments (at unspecified places) in Nimroz province and inflicted heavy human and material losses on them.

Hilmand

Mujahideen sources: On October 28: Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime security posts in Kajakai area. A large number of troops were captured alongwith one tank, 15 vehicles and other arms and ammunition.

On October 30: Soviet-made aircraft attacked inhabited areas in and around Krash. Twenty-two persons were killed and a number of houses destroyed. The aircraft flew back to Shindand air base.

On November 3: Soviet-made aircraft from Shindand bombed Mujahideen positions (somewhere) in Hilmand province, killing 12 and wounding 11 non-combatants.

On November 17: Mujahideen fired rockets on a military camp near Grishik city. Twelve regime troops were killed and an ammunition dump destroyed.

VIRA: Soviet war planes bombarded Muslim Qila area of Hilmand province, where 5 persons were killed and 12 others injured (News—Persian: November 6, 1988).

Radio Tehran: According to reports the Mujahideen have liberated Nad-e-Ali area of Hilmand province recently. In this operation 10 Muja-

hideen were martyred and 20 others were injured (November 19, 1988).

Soviet fighter planes have been heavily bombing Mujahideen positions and civilian areas in Hilmand province for about a month (News—Urdu: November 6, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The heroic Armed Forces continued to inflict deadly blows to the extremist elements supported by America and Pakistan at various places of the country. Military correspondents of Bakhtar news agency have reported that in a series of mopping-up operations with the cooperation of the local population, 128 extremist elements were wiped out in the outskirts of Kunduz, Qandahar, Parwan, Hilmand, Wardak and Kabul provinces. In these operations a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was seized from the extremist elements (November 10, 1988).

Qandahar

Mujahideen sources: On October 21: Mujahideen fired rockets and missiles on Qandahar airport.

On October 29: Brigadier General Abdul Ghani, Commander of 15th Kabul army brigade, was killed during fighting in a Qandahar city suburb.

Soviet-made aircraft bombarded Khawandyano village, killing 3 non-combatants and injuring 2 others.

On October 30: Mujahideen fired rockets and missiles on Qandahar airport, hitting an aircraft.

On October 31: Mujahideen attacked military post near Charbagh.

On November 1: Mujahideen renewed rocket attacks on Qandahar airport. A helicopter, two oil tankers and an ammunition dump were hit.

On November 1-3: More than 150 non-combatants, including women and children, were killed and about an equal number injured during MiG-27 attacks around Qandahar city. These aircraft hit villages in Arghandab, Maiwand, Panjwai and Malajat districts.

Soviet-Kabul forces also fired Scud missiles on Mujahideen "centres" in Takhta Pul area.

On November 5: Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Pul Tarnak area. Three tanks were hit and a number of troops killed. Eight Kabuli soldiers defected to Mujahideen.

On November 5: MiG-27 aircraft attacked Mujahideen positions in Toor Kotal area, 8 kms south-east of Qandahar airport.

On November 6: Civil and military "officials" working for Sardeh Dam Agricultural Project handed over "control" of the Project to Mujahideen. Located in the project area is also an airstrip.

On November 9: Mujahideen attacked regime security posts near Qandahar airport.

On November 10: Mujahideen shot down a jet aircraft near Takhta Pul.

On November 11 and 12: Mujahideen conducted attacks on regime establishments and troops in the vicinity of Manzil Bagh, Deh Khawaja and Share Nao. Thirty-five troops were killed and four tanks destroyed.

On November 14: Soviet aircraft bombed Mujahideen positions around Qandahar city and airport. Also hit during this high altitude bombing was a hospital. A large number of casualties among the doctors, nurses and patients were reported.

On November 15: Mujahideen attacked troops in Turnak.

On November 18: Mujahideen attacked Bakva sub-division. Twenty troops were killed.

On November 21: Mujahideen attacked Shahr Shaheed district, which was taken. A tank, two guns and some rocket launchers were captured. On the same day, Soviet aircraft attacked Mujahideen positions in Takhtapul area. An aircraft was shot down near Mard Kala.

On November 23: Mujahideen attacked troops near Qandahar airport. Eight soldiers, including two officers were taken prisoner.

VIRA: Mujahideen attacked the Kabul regime's security posts in the outskirts of Qandahar city on November 4, as a result of which 56 communists were killed and four tanks and a number of military vehicles stationed at these posts were destroyed.

Yet another report says the Mujahideen have taken a Kabul regime's military base near Qandahar city.

The Soviets have also brought in fresh military units from Turkmanistan and Uzbekistan and deployed them at Qandahar airport. The purpose of their deployment is to save Qandahar city from falling to the Mujahideen (*News-Persian*: November 11, 1988).

A report from Qandahar province says that the Mujahideen have destroyed four military posts of the enemy in the vicinity of Qandahar city recently. The report adds, the Mujahideen have captured two military posts of the communists in Takhta Pul Woleswali of Qandahar province (*News-Pushto*: November 30, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Muslim Afghan revolutionaries during their recent two-day fierce fighting with Kabul troops in an area located some ten kilometres in the south-east of Qandahar air base, blew up a dump of arms and ammunition and inflicted heavy losses on government troops. On the other hand, Muslim Afghan revolutionaries attacked some official buildings and jails in Qandahar yesterday as a result of which many troops of Kabul government were killed (*News-Urdu*: Novem-

ber 3, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen are also reported to have liberated two military bases of Kabul regime in Logar and Qandahar provinces. Seven Kabul-Soviet troops were killed and three others arrested when the Afghan Mujahideen laid mines and blocked Herat-Tor Ghundai highway last week (November 10, 1988).

BBC: The US State Department has claimed that Soviet planes recently bombarded Qandahar in Afghanistan with a view to prevent the Afghan guerillas from making any further advance. In a cable despatched from Islamabad Lez Ducat reports that informed sources in Pakistan have confirmed the American statement. Lez Ducat also throws light on why Qandahar is so important for the Afghan guerillas. For quite some time the Afghan Mujahideen have been claiming that they are just going to occupy Qandahar. In view of the fact that during the past month the Mujahideen reached so close to Qandahar, the possibility of their success seems very bright.

According to western diplomatic sources in Pakistan the Afghan Mujahideen are only a few miles away from the airport. Informed Afghan sources confirmed the reports of heavy bombardment by the Soviet Union. It indicated that Kabul is aware of the threat posed by the Afghan guerillas. The Soviet Union maintains that these attacks are being made in defence of the Soviet troops. For several weeks conflicting reports have been coming that the Soviet Union has deployed its troops and advisers on the Qandahar airport. But some sources say that it is not so. According to reports these Soviet attacks are causing heavy losses. That was why the Afghan guerillas could not succeed in their plan. The Mujahideen are in control of the western and northern suburbs of Qandahar city. But they could not enter the city because of Soviet retaliatory attacks. The Mujahideen have also gained control of most of the rural areas of Qandahar province as well as its neighbouring provinces.

With the capture of provincial capital Qandahar city, its airport will be an important success for the Mujahideen. The airport has several runways. This will open new supply routes for the Afghan Mujahideen.

Qandahar may also prove a correct place for the capital of an interim government. Several months ago moderate Afghan guerilla groups made attempts to reach a compromise with the military Commander of Qandahar, Ismatullah Muslim, so that the Afghan guerillas may gain control of Qandahar. But this deal could not be settled because of the fundamentalist Afghan groups, because they opposed any kind of compromise. Mr. Muslim was then called to Kabul and was sent back with further reinforcements.

The basic aim of the moderates is to make Qandahar a base and call the former King Zahir Shah to end the present political stalemate among them (Sairbeen—Urdu: November 1, 1988).

VOA: The Kabul government's radio has reported that Commander of the government forces in Qandahar, Brigadier Syed Ghani died on Monday last. He was apparently injured in fighting with the Afghan Mujahideen on October 26 (News—Urdu: November 1, 1988).

Afghan Mujahideen have shot down a Soviet-made supersonic bomber plane near Qandahar. Sources of Afghan Mujahideen say that the aircraft MiG-27 was shot down in Turkotal area on November 5, which is located at a distance of some eight kilometres in south-east of Qandahar airport. The sources add that the MiG-27 aircraft which were recently inducted into fighting in Afghanistan had been carrying out heavy bombing on Mujahideen positions around Qandahar for the last two weeks which caused a lot of damage. At least thirty MiG-27 aircraft are being used in Afghanistan war since last month (News—Urdu: November 9, 1988).

Afghan resistance sources say that a big demonstration was staged against the Afghan regime in Qandahar. All the city shops remained close till yesterday. The demonstration was staged as a mark of protest against KHAD and Militiamen who looted assets of the people (Commentary—Pushto: November 2, 1988).

Western diplomats say twenty thousand Afghans have crossed the border into Pakistan to escape air raids by Soviet and Afghan government forces. The diplomats based in Pakistan quote United Nations officials as saying the refugees fled to Pakistan in the last month after their villages were bombed in Eastern Afghanistan.

Unconfirmed reports from resistance sources say bombings have been stepped up near Qandahar in the south. They say Soviet MiG-27s attacked a hospital last week killing more than one hundred patients (News—English: November 22, 1988).

VOG: In Afghanistan, some military officers are said to have revolted in an attempt to bring an end to the domination of the Soviet-backed Kabul rulers. While reporting about this rebellion attempt, the Soviet News Agency, TASS claimed that some thirty rebel military officers were killed in the incident. According to an Agency report, some four hundred military officers deployed in Qandahar province revolted on Monday night. In this connection, the Agency gave various possible reasons. It said that military officers of Qandahar province wanted to overthrow the Kabul administration, but the Soviet-Kabul troops foiled their attempt. Giving details of the rebellion, the agency reported that the rebel military officers attempted to capture local

military headquarters in Qandahar and when they were marching towards the military headquarters, the Soviet-Kabul troops attacked them killing some thirty of them. The remaining ones were either wounded or made captive. The agency described those involved as extremists alleging that they were acting against the interests of the country. However, claims made by TASS could not be confirmed from other sources.

Prior to this TASS report, another report was released by the Kabul regime that Syed Muhammad Gulab Zai has been dismissed. Gulab Zai was a very influential figure in the Kabul administration. He had played a vital role as Minister of War in the 70s. He had been an officer in the Afghan Air Force. He took an active part during the coup against former Afghan King Zahir Shah in 1973 and then in the Communist revolution in 1978. He has been replaced by Lt. Gen. Aslam Watanyar as the new Interior Minister. The Qandahar rebellion took place only a few days after the dismissal of Mr. Gulab Zai from his office (25 November 1988).

Radio Beijing: Afghan resistance forces claimed to have shot down a Soviet MiG-27 on Saturday in Afghanistan near the south-western city of Qandahar.

The Afghan news agency reported on Tuesday that the resistance forces shot down the plane using anti-aircraft guns while it was bombing an area south-east of the Qandahar airport.

The Soviet Union said on Friday that it had equipped the Afghan Air Force with a number of MiG-27 fighters. It also said it will suspend its troops withdrawal because of a series of heavy guerilla attacks against Afghan army positions.

Xinhua news agency reports that the newly deployed planes are responsible for the death of more than one hundred and fifty Afghan civilians in raids near Qandahar last week.

In a separate statement Iran has warned that Moscow's decision to delay its troops withdrawal from Afghanistan will only further complicate problems there (News—English: November 8, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The armed forces are continuing to inflict deadly blows on the extremist groups supported by America and Pakistan in various parts of the country.

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has reported that in the course of mopping-up operations of the Armed Forces in Tor Kotal area of Qandahar province 15 extremists were wiped out and twenty-six others injured. In these operations three vehicles loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed. Forty ground-to-ground missiles and twenty hand grenades were seized by the Armed Forces (November

2, 1988).

The extremists fired a rocket on a passenger bus which was on its way from Sanglai village to Qandahar city. As a result of the attack, 30 civilians, including women and children were martyred and ten passengers sustained injuries (News—Pushto: November 6, 1988).

AIR: In continuing clashes over seventy rebels have been killed in the provinces of Qandahar, Paktia and Faryab.

The Soviet news agency TASS said that thirty-five people were killed at Pushtunkot in Faryab province (News—English: November 6, 1988).

Radio Moscow: The Afghan government troops carried out their successful mopping-up operations against the irreconcilable Afghan armed opposition day before yesterday. In these operations more than one hundred extremists were killed and injured in the provinces of Ningharhar and Qandahar (November 20, 1988).

Reports from Kabul say that details have come about an attempted rebellion in Qandahar, the biggest provincial centre in the south of Afghanistan. On the night of 21st of November, some army officials in this province tried to take a group of nearly four hundred extremists to a local military headquarters.

It is reported that loyal soldiers and officials, who came to know about the rebellion created hurdles in their way. After fierce fighting rebels had to withdraw. The so-called irreconciliatory plan of the opposition to capture Qandahar city with the help of rebels has failed (Commentary—Urdu: November 25, 1988).

Zabul

Mujahideen sources: On November 11: Mujahideen shot down a helicopter at Omaki.

On November 12: Mujahideen attacked a security post near Kalat, causing casualties amongst the occupants.

VIRA: The Mujahideen shot down a Kabul regime helicopter in Kalat, centre of Zabul province (News—Persian: November 1, 1988).

Radio Kabul: Differences among the extremist groups have intensified these days leading to serious clashes among them. As a result of a clash that took place between Nasar and Harakat bands in Syed Khan village of Zabul province, three persons were killed and four others were injured. In another clash between these groups in Shajoi area of Zabul province, twenty-five members of the Harkat band were captured by the Nasar group (News—Pushto: November 4, 1988).

A Bakhtar news agency report says, a group of extremists belonging to Gulbadin which was engaged in criminal activities was wiped out

by the armed forces in Zabul province yesterday (News—Pushto: November 6, 1988).

Ghazni

Mujahideen sources: On October 27: Mujahideen attacked regime troops near Ghazni city, killing 15 men.

On November 9: Mujahideen shot down a helicopter in Gailani sub-division. The helicopter which was attacking Mujahideen positions was hit with a missile.

VIRA: Mujahideen carried out attacks on communist positions in the suburbs of Ghazni city. An ammunition dump was destroyed. Six officers and seven soldiers were made captive by the Mujahideen (November 5, 1988).

VOA: Afghan Mujahideen hit with heavy weapons the communist positions in Waskili area at the end of Meezan. Two tanks were destroyed and thirteen communist troops were killed and wounded in the attack. Following the Mujahideen attack, the Kabul regime artillery shelled the village causing heavy losses in men and material to the civilians. Another report from Ghazni province says that fourteen members of Kabul regime Militia and troops have defected to the Mujahideen in Andarb Uleswali (November 5, 1988).

Paktika

Nil report.

Paktia

Mujahideen sources: On October 30: Mujahideen shot down a jet aircraft in the outskirts of Gardez.

On November 2: In a clash near Gardez city, 7 regime troops were killed.

On November 6: Mujahideen captured a security post at Spin, south of Khost. Eighteen regime soldiers were taken prisoner.

On November 10: Mujahideen fired rockets on Khost airfield, hitting an aircraft. With the capture of Spin security post, Mujahideen forward positions have come closer to Khost city and cantonment.

On November 22 and 23: Mujahideen attacked regime troops in Nadir Kot area.

On November 23: Soviet-made Scud missiles were fired on Mujahideen bases at Zawar and Jihadwal. The missiles bored deep holes on the spots they fell. The explosions were heard over a wide area. Nevertheless, only minimal damage was done to the Mujahideen.

VIRA: In a series of attacks on the Kabul communist troops, the Afghan Mujahideen of Maulvi Mansoor's Haraket-e-Enqelab-e-Islami

Afghanistan conquered three communist regime posts around Gardez city, the centre of Paktia province on 7 November.

In the operation, 100 communist militiamen were killed and four KHAD agents were captured. A huge quantity of arms and food grains was also captured.

According to the report, in the battle five Mujahideen were martyred and two others were injured (News—Persian: November 9, 1988).

Radio Zahidan: The Mujahideen shot down a transport plane of Kabul government near Khost airport in Paktia province on November 10. The fate of the pilot is not yet known (News—Urdu: November 18, 1988).

A report of Harkat Enqelab-e-Islami from Paktia province says that Afghan Mujahideen made fierce attacks on Terghar, Marmal and Namlakai posts under the command of Commander Mali Khan on Aqrab 3. The report says that a Kabul regime tank was destroyed and three communists on board were killed during the attacks. The report adds that the Khost area base is under intense attacks of the Mujahideen. It is said that landing and take off at this airbase has now become difficult. Ghulam Khan, the Commander of Harkat-e-Enqelab-e-Islami in his report says that the Mujahideen carried out attacks on Said Karam Uleswali on Meezan 29. Eleven soldiers and two officers were killed and wounded and a military vehicle was seized during the attacks. One Mujahid was killed and two others wounded (Commentary—Pushto: November 5, 1988).

AIR: In Afghanistan, the army has killed a number of rebels in the fresh operations against rebels in Baghlan, Ningarhar and Paktia provinces.

Reports say the operations are still continuing. A stronghold of the rebels in Ningarhar province, bordering Pakistan also came under missile attack. The base contained anti-aircraft missiles, ground-to-ground missiles and thousands of mines and shells.

About one hundred and thirty civilians lost their lives last month alone in rebel attacks on Jalalabad and Ningarhar areas (News—English: November 5, 1988).

Radio Kabul: During successful operations of armed forces in Said Karam, Zurmat and surrounding area of Gardez city, twenty-five extremists were killed and seven others were injured. In these operations two vehicles of the armed extremists loaded with arms and ammunition were destroyed (News—Pushto: November 2, 1988).

The criminal extremists fired ground-to-ground missiles on the residential areas of Khost today. As a result of this brutal act, three

persons were martyred and four others injured (News—Pushto: November 2, 1988).

Another report from Gardez says that as a result of the military operations in Zarmal area of Paktia province, thirty-seven extremists, including one Pakistani and one American adviser, were killed and three others were seriously injured (November 3, 1988).

The extremist groups, supported by America and Pakistan, fired ground-to-ground missiles at residential areas of Khost yesterday. As a result six people were injured and a mosque and five houses were damaged (News—Pushto: November 4, 1988).

With the direct military and financial assistance of Pakistan, America and other imperialist countries, the opposition armed groups have stepped up firing rockets and missiles on the residential areas in the towns and cities. The extremists by using heavy arms are also destroying government installations, airports, brigades and roads. The extremists have not stopped their missile attacks on Kabul, Gardez, Jalalabad, Khost, Paktia and Kapisa cities and provinces. So far, with missiles and rocket attacks, hundreds of innocent civilians have been martyred. In view of such subversive inhuman activities of the extremists, the government has acquired new weapons and techniques from the friendly country, Soviet Union, so as to strengthen the defence and operational capability of the Armed Forces. The new weapons will enable the Afghan Armed Forces to defeat the enemies of peace and tranquility and maintain peace and security in the country, which is the desire of the Afghans. As the Defence Minister has made it clear, "We have acquired the weapons and techniques for the purposes of peace and security and elimination of the warmongers from the country and not for aggression and warmongering objectives".

A source of the Afghan Foreign Ministry has reported that Charge d'Affairs of the US Embassy in Kabul was summoned to Foreign Ministry today and a strong protest of the Afghan government was handed over to him (News—Pushto: November 9, 1988).

Radio Moscow: Afghan news agency Bakhtar says that government troops carried out successful operations against opposition extremist targets in the last two days during which 298 bandits were killed and thirty-eight others wounded in Paktia, Laghman and Badghis provinces. During those operations a huge quantity of weapons was also seized. Control on highway linking Kabul to Jalalabad city has been restored (News—Urdu: November 12, 1988).

Ningarhar

Mujahideen sources: On November 1: Mujahideen hit an ammuni-

tion depot in Achin Uluswali.

On November 2: Mujahideen fired rockets on Jalalabad airport and Qatarghai security post. Mujahideen also attacked Kabul regime establishments in the Torkham border area, capturing 5 security posts near Dakka.

On November 3: Mujahideen captured Torkham army camp after sixteen hours fighting. About 300 regime troops surrendered to Mujahideen. Mujahideen also seized a large number of weapons including a tank. In the meantime, they also captured the important post of Landi Khyber. A Soviet-made aircraft interfering with Mujahideen advance towards Ghani Khel was shot down.

On November 4 and 5: Mujahideen consolidated their position in the newly liberated areas of Lalpura, Landi Khyber, Sarhad Dari and Torkham.

On November 6: The Military cantonments of Khogiani and Samarkhel were under severe attacks of Mujahideen. One report said the 'Bazar' of Khogiani had been burnt. Meanwhile, many local people rendered shelterless due to fighting, were moving to Pakistan. Traffic on the reverse direction on the Torkham-Jalalabad road, and further west to Kabul, remained closed.

On November 7: Mujahideen entered Ghanikhel a strategically placed army base on the road to the provincial headquarters Jalalabad. More than 100 soldiers were captured.

On November 7: Police broke up demonstrations on the streets of Jalalabad. The demonstrators were shouting anti-regime slogans.

On November 8: Nazian district headquarters fell to Mujahideen. Mujahideen also captured military posts of Ghaziabad and Batikot. About 50 militiamen were taken prisoner.

On November 9: Mujahideen attacked troops in Chaparhar and Sherzad districts near the provincial capital, Jalalabad. They also took the district headquarters of Achin, north of Jalalabad. At least 25 Mujahideen were killed and many others wounded when Soviet-made aircraft made a night attack on their camping ground in Rodat.

On November 10: Mujahideen triumphantly entered the Samarkhel cantonment only about 4 miles from Jalalabad.

On November 11: A large Soviet-Kabul force supported by about 50 tanks came out of Jalalabad city, four army trucks were hit during fighting. Ultimately, this force returned to Jalalabad.

On November 13: Soviet-Kabul troops tried to retake Khogiani and Samarkhel. Their planes were also bombarding Mujahideen positions all the way from Jalalabad to Torkham. They fired Scud missiles on targets close to Pakistan border. Helicopters dropped troops near

Torkham. In these circumstances, the Pakistan-Afghanistan border check-post of Torkham once again reverted to Kabul regime.

On November 14: Mujahideen and regime forces clashed near Landi Khyber, Marhoh and Dakka. The Kabulis lost at least 2 tanks in these clashes.

On November 20: Mujahideen claimed they had taken Rodat district headquarters near Jalalabad and surrounded Kabul forces in the Torkham district. Landi Khyber too had exchanged hands back to Mujahideen, besides Deh Baba.

On November 24: Kabul regime troops conducted a number of counter-attacks on Landi Khyber and Deh Baba, but these were repulsed.

On November 25: Mujahideen once again re-established control over Torkham. A large number of Afghan government soldiers surrendered to them. Their booty included 4 tanks, 22 vehicles, 4 mortars, five heavy guns and hundreds of rifles.

VIRA: Following recent victories of the Afghan Mujahideen in the outskirts of Jalalabad, more Soviet-Kabul troops have been despatched from Kabul to Eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday last.

These troops have reached Sarobi area in the West of Jalalabad.

According to the diplomatic sources these forces have been despatched for cleaning up the region. Meanwhile the Afghan Mujahideen have captured Ghanikhel Military Division.

The report says that the Afghan Mujahideen also attacked the Kabul troops in Ghaziabad (News-Persian: November 12, 1988).

Soviet planes attacked various places in Ningarhar province on Saturday and Sunday last with toxic bombs.

A source of the Mujahideen reported that the Scud missiles being fired by the Soviet forces from their base in Kabul also carry toxic material.

The source added that the Scud missiles being fired on eastern Afghanistan have caused various diseases like eyesores, skin disorders and allergy (News-Persian: November 25, 1988).

Radio Tehran: Kabul regime troops attacked the Afghan Mujahideen positions with Soviet-made SS-1 Scud missiles.

According to Soviet news agency TASS six to eight missiles were fired on Mujahideen bases in Ningarhar province on Tuesday and Wednesday. TASS reports that one missile was fired on the Afghan Mujahideen bases in eastern Afghanistan today.

On the other hand, reports from Islamabad say that eleven Afghan army officers and one hundred and forty soldiers have joined the ranks of the Mujahideen (News-Pushto: November 4, 1988).

Afghan Mujahideen have captured Samarkhel Military Post. This post was the last line of the Communist troops to Jalalabad city. Similarly, the Mujahideen shelled Jalalabad airport which indicates that they will soon liberate the city.

Radio Kabul reported yesterday that Afghan government troops have fired ground-to-ground Scud missiles against the guerilla targets in Ningarhar province. The Radio claimed that more than seven hundred opponents have been killed during two-day missile attacks. The Radio also claimed that government troops have regained control on Kabul-Jalalabad highway. The Jalalabad city, adjacent to Pakistan border is situated at a distance of 150 kilometres from Kabul. According to latest reports, fierce clashes are continuing between the Mujahideen and Communist troops in this area. These reports add that missile attacks of Kabul government indicate its grave fear and concern over possible fall of Jalalabad city in the near future (News—Urdu: November 12, 1988).

BBC: Reports from eastern Afghanistan say that despite last week's rocket attacks on Ningarhar the Afghan Mujahideen have continued their advance towards the important city of Jalalabad. Liz Ducit from Islamabad reports:

The Afghan sources say that the Mujahideen captured major military base of Ghanikhel following fierce fighting on Sunday last. This was an important victory in a series of successful operations by the Afghan Mujahideen in this province during the past few days. Earlier, the Mujahideen captured Torkham border post. It was said that more than forty kilometres part of the highway is under their control, or in other words it means that Mujahideen now control over half of the road between Torkham and Jalalabad. Mujahideen have also intensified their attacks on important positions close to city and airport. The airport is now used only for transport planes during night. The Mujahideen have also blocked the supply route to Kabul, so pressure is increasing on the city. But diplomatic sources say that Soviet convoys were seen moving towards eastern part of Jalalabad during last few days. The Afghan sources confirmed yesterday that a Soviet convoy consisting of more than one hundred and twenty tanks and other military vehicles has arrived in Sarobi. The sources say that apparently the task of the convoy was to clear the road. Sarobi is situated at a distance of more than twenty miles from Kabul and electricity installations are there, which supply power to Kabul city.

At least nine SS-1 powerful missiles were fired from Kabul on the strongholds of Mujahideen in Ningarhar province last week.

But it seems that this could not hit Mujahideen and Afghan sources say that these missiles caused no damage to the Mujahideen strongholds (Current Affairs—Pushto: November 9, 1988).

BBC correspondent Liz Ducit reports from Islamabad that heavy fighting is continuing on the highway leading from provincial capital Jalalabad of Ningarhar province to Torkham check-post for the last one month.

It looked like that the Mujahideen are making continuous advance towards Jalalabad while the Torkham check-post close to Pakistani border has been in their control. But the Afghan government troops later made a speedy advance on the highway and recaptured the Torkham check-post. A number of questions arise in one's mind about Mujahideen's defence capability following the successful operation by the Afghan government troops. And a very important matter is that the Mujahideen were engaged in fighting to get control over some other strategically important posts. Now it has been stated that the Mujahideen have reorganized themselves. According to Afghan Islamic Press, the Mujahideen have achieved a number of successes by defeating the Afghan troops in several places. However, at present the Torkham check-post is in the control of Afghan troops and they are reported to have started dealing with immigration proceedings. It is also reported that a large number of troops and tank units have been deployed there.

In another despatch Liz Ducit says that according to Western diplomats in Islamabad, the scarcity of food stuffs in Kabul is not a new thing. But the situation deteriorated last week when the owners of bread shops closed their businesses and the shops which remained open witnessed long queues of people. There was shortage of edible oil and sugar. Long queues were seen on petrol stations. The Soviet Union is reported to have now started supplying these articles to the city. The Afghan sources say that electricity situation improved last week. However, power loadshedding has now become a routine matter in the city. Some sources say that now aircraft of the Afghan airlines get fuel from Mazar-e-Sharif. The markets, which remained full of foreign goods all the time, are now empty, because the Mujahideen are controlling all the roads through which these goods reached (Shabnama—Urdu: November 22, 1988).

VOA: Six foreign journalists visiting Afghanistan have been wounded in a rocket attack by Afghan rebels near the Pakistani border. The government had invited the correspondents for a first-hand look at a border post which government forces have recaptured from the Mujahideen earlier in the week. Western diplomats and resistance sources said the journalists from France, India, Japan and the Soviet Union were

wounded when a rocket exploded near their vehicle. They were taken to Kabul for medical treatment (News—English: November 17, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen have recaptured a border garrison at Torkham in Afghanistan. VOA correspondent in Islamabad Irfan Ghazi quotes the Mujahideen sources in Peshawar as claiming that 184 Afghan troops, deployed at the garrison, surrendered to the Mujahideen on Friday night.

Those, who surrendered, include sixty officers including their Commander, Moosa. This is for the second time this month that the Mujahideen have hoisted their flag on the Torkham border post. Initially ten days after its capture on 12th November, when most of the Mujahideen had gone to other areas for strengthening their position, an armoured contingent of the Afghan army succeeded in regaining control of Torkham garrison.

Torkham is the biggest commercial route between Pakistan and Afghanistan linking Peshawar with Kabul. During the nine years civil war, both the countries had kept the highway open for transit trade.

The western diplomatic sources in Islamabad had earlier reported that with the fighting along the Torkham-Kabul highway, particularly upto seventy-five kilometres strip in Jalalabad, the supply of food to Kabul has been disturbed.

The Mujahideen sources in Torkham say they have been occupying the Jalalabad highway upto fifty kilometres. They say the siege of Torkham garrison continued for one week and the government troops present in the garrison had contacted the local Mujahideen Commander for permission to go to Jalalabad. But their request was turned down and when food and water fell short, they surrendered to the Mujahideen. They have also captured hundreds of weapons including a tank (Radio Report—Urdu: November 26, 1988).

Radio Bangladesh: Atleast ten thousand Afghan families are said to have taken refuge in Pakistan recently after crossing the Pak-Afghan border.

An official statement issued in Islamabad says that these Afghan families were forced to enter Pakistan due to intensive bombardment by the communist troops in Ningarhar province of Afghanistan last week.

The reports say that the Kabul government troops are attacking the Mujahideen with ground-to-ground missiles supplied by the Soviet Union (News—Urdu: November 15, 1988).

Radio Kabul: We announce with regret that an alternate member of the Central Committee of the Peoples Democratic Party of Afghanistan and Secretary of the Party Committee of Shinwar Loi Woleswali,

Gul Rehman was martyred during a face to face clash with the satanic forces. He was laid to rest, with the participation of thousands of citizens of Jalalabad (News—Pushto: November 13, 1988).

Our armed forces are continuing their successful operations in Ningarhar province. They have crushed a large number of extremists and recovered large quantities of arms from them. Besides, terrorists have also been eliminated in a number of outskirts. Our correspondent has sent this report from Ningarhar province.

An agent of the commander in the area Ali Mohammad said, "it is our responsibility to thwart every attempt of the extremists designed to destabilise the country. They had captured Torkham-Jalalabad highway, but we forced them to retreat. We know that all world people wish peace and as such, our objective based on the establishment of peace, is just and success has become our fate".

An officer of the Guard Force said: "we were deputed to get the Jalalabad Highway freed from extremists and foil their attempts to attack Jalalabad city to carry out massacre of the innocent people. We achieved many successes in our operations and fulfilled our obligations.

The Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Afghan armed forces, General Abdul Ghafoor who was commanding the successful operation in Ningarhar province said: "as our compatriots know, the extremists recently planned to close Kabul-Jalalabad and Jalalabad-Torkham highways and spread propaganda there that they would occupy Jalalabad within a few days and then also capture Kabul. They made large scale propaganda that Torkham-Jalalabad highway would never be opened but the staunch Muslims and the Afghans know that Sharia requires them to open the path. The extremists destroyed two bridges on Sarobi-Jalalabad highway. In short, the extremists several times spread propaganda that they would wipe out these highways. So you see that the brave armed forces have inflicted severe blows on them. Armed forces are not so weak because the armed forces are of the people and are serving the people. You know some units present on Kabul-Jalalabad highway were either fled or crushed. Likewise, countless extremists were crushed and their arms depots destroyed during operations on Jalalabad-Torkham highway. Now the highway is open and the people are freely using the Kabul-Jalalabad and Jalalabad-Torkham highways (Commentary—Urdu: November 13, 1988).

A source of the Afghan armed forces has reported that in the course of military operations in the outskirts of Torkham, the Armed Forces have discovered seventy dead bodies in Charbacha area. The bodies could not be identified so far. The source added that they were

found in plastic and jute bags, with their hands and feet tied with chains. Military experts are of the opinion that they were killed after physical torture. Some of them were dressed in Pakistani Shalwar and Qamiz. It seems that they were brought from Pakistan to this area, before the successful operation of the Afghan Armed Forces (News—Pushto: November 23, 1988).

Radio Moscow: The highway connecting Jalalabad the capital of Ningarhar province with the border city of Torkham has been cleared of rebels. Government troops launched an operation to regain control of the highway on Sunday morning. By the middle of the day the road had been cleared (News—English: November 15, 1988).

The Soviet Journalists' Union has condemned the brutal activities of Afghan armed Opposition and has demanded an end to foreign interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan.

It may be recalled that on November 16, a team of foreign journalists was fired at, from Pakistani soil in Torkham area of Ningarhar province in which seven newsmen were wounded. The injured included seven correspondents from France, Federal Republic of Germany and India.

Soviet journalists consider it an attempt to frighten the representatives of media who want to unmask the causes impeding national reconciliation, the statement added (News—Urdu: November 19, 88).

Kunar

Mujahideen sources: On November 4: Three Soviet-made Scud missiles hit Sarkani district of Kunar province. There were no casualties. The Soviets fired these missiles from Kabul.

(Since the evacuation of Asadabad, the provincial capital, in the first week of October, Kunar province is under Mujahideen control. Mujahideen have chosen a governor for the province and formed local committees and offices for regular administration of liberated area).

On November 28: Three Mujahideen were killed and 16 wounded when an automobile, they were travelling in, hit a landmine in Sheegal Valley. Yet another Mujahid was killed when he stepped on a pressure mine in Marwara Valley.

Radio Tehran: Kabul regime has fired three Soviet SS-1 Scud missiles on Friday which landed ten kilometres from Pakistani border in Kunar province. A statement of the Seven-Party Alliance said the missiles fell in Sarkano Pass in Kunar province which is under the control of Mujahideen.

On last Tuesday and Wednesday also, several missiles were fired at Mujahideen positions seven kilometres from Jalalabad city, Ningarhar

province (News—Urdu: November 8, 1988).

Following the fresh attacks of Kabul regime in various areas of Afghanistan, a large number of Afghans entered Pakistan via eastern province of Kunar during the last few days (News—Pushto: November 10, 1988).

Radio Kabul: During a military operation the positions of the armed extremists were destroyed by the new long-range missiles in Sarkano Woleswali of Kunar province and Momandara Woleswali of Ningarhar province and about two hundred extremists were killed (November 17, 1988).

Radio Moscow: The Afghan army has carried out strong missile attacks on concentrations of the bands of the Opposition in Sarkani in the Kunar province and Momandara in the province of Qandahar. The Bakhtar news agency says that the new ground-to-ground missiles hit the targets accurately. As a result about two hundred extremists were put out of action and a big amount of military hardware was destroyed (News—English: November 18, 1988).

Nooristan

Nil report.

Badakhshan

Mujahideen sources: On November 10: Mujahideen shot down an aircraft near Faizabad, provincial capital.

On November 11: Kabul regime forces attacked Dahzandan village and killed 180 people. They also demolished about 80 houses. In "retaliation", Mujahideen killed 28 "communist party members" during an attack on Faizabad. Three Mujahideen were killed and four wounded in this operation.

Takhar

Mujahideen sources: On November 16: Kabul regime fired rockets on Talaqan, the provincial capital city (currently under Mujahideen occupation). A large number of people were killed.

Radio Kabul: Thirty extremists were wiped out, six injured and five made captive by the Armed Forces in Ishkamish Woleswali of Takhar province. In Dashte Qala area of Takhar province, seven extremists including a ring leader of the Gulbadin band, Aminullah, were wiped out and six others injured (November 2, 1988).

Kunduz

Mujahideen sources: On October 30: Mujahideen clashed with

Kabul regime troops near Kunduz city. Two tanks were destroyed and several troops killed against two of the Mujahideen.

On November 1: Mujahideen ambushed a military convoy at a place south of Salang Tunnel. Ten oil tankers were destroyed. On the same day in a separate incident two Mujahideen were killed in the Khanabad area.

On November 2: Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime troops near Kunduz city, killing 10 and wounding 8 soldiers.

On November 11: The Soviets fired on inhabited areas in Hazrat Imam Sahib district from across their own border. Twelve houses were demolished.

On November 15: Mujahideen attacked Soviet establishments in Hazrat Imam Sahib district. Twelve soldiers were killed and 5 captured.

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen during their operations in Kabul and Kunduz provinces, killed twenty-six Kabul troops and arrested 59 others (News—Urdu: November 27, 1988).

VOA: The Afghan resistance sources say that fierce battles have taken place between the Mujahideen and communist troops in Balkh, Kunduz and Paktia provinces. Sayed Fazal Akbar reports:

A report of Milli Islami Mahaz says that the Afghan Mujahideen attacked the communist positions on Meezan 20. Fifteen communists were killed, thirteen others injured and two joined the ranks of the Mujahideen during the fighting. Three military vehicles and a tank of the communist troops were also destroyed. Two Mujahideen were killed and seven others sustained injuries during the fighting in Chargulk. Besides, three civilians were also killed. The Mujahideen of Kunduz city made an attack on Dawood post near Kunduz city in the last week of Meezan as a result of which twelve communists were killed and wounded and two others were made captive by the Mujahideen. The Mujahideen have also captured a large quantity of weapons. Four Mujahideen were killed during the fighting (November 5, 1988).

Radio Kabul: According to another report from Kunduz city, the Armed Forces during their mopping-up operations killed sixty-one extremists alongwith two Pakistani advisors (November 4, 1988).

Seventy extremists belonging to Rabbani group were killed, fifteen others injured and a large number of light and heavy weapons captured by the Afghan armed forces in Aliabad, Umarmhel and Alikhel in Kunduz province yesterday. The report says that as a result of this successful operation, an ammunition depot, one mortar and two heavy machineguns were also destroyed. Five extremists were killed and one Pakistani advisor was wounded by the armed forces (November

8, 1988).

Baghlan

Mujahideen sources: On October 30: Mujahideen attacked a security post in Baghlan city industrial area. They captured two army officers and 9 men alongwith a tank and plenty of arms and ammunition.

On November 2: Mujahideen attacked a security post at Haji Nawab.

On November 4: Mujahideen attacked military convoy at Khanjan. The convoy which was bringing fresh supplies of arms and ammunition from the Soviet Union was ambushed some 162 kilometres from Kabul, on the Salang Highway. Four trailers loaded with missiles and other arms and ammunition were hit.

On November 8: A colonel of the Kabul Army (Gul Wali) defected to Mujahideen (somewhere) in Baghlan province.

On November 13-14: Two hundred militia troops surrendered to Mujahideen near Chayabi village. The fortified position of militiamen had previously been under Mujahideen siege for 2 weeks.

On November 17: Local commander of the Russian army exchanged three of their captured countrymen with 30 Mujahideen in Dan-i-Ghory sub-district.

On November 18: Mujahideen eliminated a security post near Khanjan on the Salang Highway. Thirty Kabul troops were captured.

On November 26: Mujahideen hit 2 tanks and 3 trucks during a surprise attack near Russian army base at Kalagai.

Radio Tehran: A colonel of the Kabul government troops alongwith his thirty soldiers defected to the Afghan Mujahideen recently.

Reports say that they defected to the Mujahideen on November 8, in Baghlan province (November 24, 1988).

BBC: There are more details of the reports that Afghan government forces have regained control of the strategic Salang Highway which links Kabul with the Soviet border. Afghan rebels blocked the road last week and, it is now said to have been re-opened atleast temporarily. Liz Ducit reports from Peshawar:

The latest reports from Kabul underline how much importance the Government attaches to the control of the Salang Highway. Western diplomats say that heavy fighting along this vital route to the Soviet Union blocked the Salang on November 6th and 11th. But by the beginning of this week combined Soviet-Kabul ground operations appeared to have atleast temporarily cleared the road.

Reports of the Salang blockade had created a panic in the

capital. Residents in Kabul say that traffic on the Highway has now resumed. Large military convoys are reported to be moving north on the Highway. Civilian convoys are travelling with armed escorts. It was the forces of Ahmed Shah Masoud, the Mujahideen Commander who controls most of north-eastern Afghanistan, who blocked the Salang Pass. The decision is believed to have been provoked by the Soviet announcement that they were temporarily suspending troops withdrawal and by the deployment of advanced aircraft and the use of Scud missiles inside Afghanistan. It is widely believed that Masoud had an understanding with the Soviet Union that he would let their convoys pass if they kept their promise to withdraw their troops by February 15. Western diplomats say that Masoud's forces reportedly allowed a few trucks to pass along the Highway last week and that the Mujahideen began stopping only Government and not the Soviet convoys. It may be said that Masoud may have been trying to drive a point home to the Soviets. But if that is done, his real target is Kabul not Moscow (Newsreel—English, Current Affairs—Pushto: Nov. 16, 1988).

VOA: A top Mujahideen Commander in Shumali area, the Panjsher Valley area, has announced a major offensive to block the Salang Tunnel to cut the flow of traffic to and from the Soviet Union. From Islamabad VOA's John Shultz reports the offensive is to weaken Soviet military escalation in Afghanistan:

Commander, Masoud, sometimes called the 'Lion of the Panjsher' is considered one of the best strategists and administrators in all of Afghanistan. His efforts to create the Supervisory Council in the north with specialised fighters, combined units and a complete community infra-structure, schools and hospitals, is considered a model of Mujahideen commanders everywhere. His announcement Monday, of a major offensive to block the Salang Highway is a complete reversal of his earlier policy. Mujahideen sources in Peshawar, Pakistan, quote commander Masoud as saying the new pressure that could close the series of eight Soviet build tunnels and a twelve kilometres stretch of mountains is designed as a response to recent Soviet military incursions. In recent days, the Soviet Union has introduced and used thirty supersonic MiG-27 fighter bombers in major battles around Qandahar and Shindand and launched atleast eight Scud medium-range missiles. It is now flying strategic Backfire bombers on daily missions over Afghanistan from bases in the Soviet Union (Radio Report—Urdu—English: November 7, 1988).

The Mujahideen launched an attack on a Soviet convoy in the area

of Rubatak (ph) in Baghlan province on 6th November and destroyed about twenty-five tanks. Reports about killing of thirty Soviet troops have also been received from this place. According to a report received on Friday the fighting is still continuing in several areas from Baghlan city to Mazar-e-Sharif. The Mujahideen also attacked a military convoy on 5th of November in the south of Salang Tunnel, fifty kilometres from Chari Bar and destroyed twenty tanks and trucks. On the same day, the Mujahideen set on fire forty tanks and armoured vehicles of another convoy (Radio Report—Urdu: November 12, 1988).

Radio Kabul: During the mopping-up operations of the Armed Forces in Kandari and Chashman Sher villages of Pul-e-Khomri Woleswali of Baghlan province, 50 rocket launchers and a large quantity of other weapons, were seized by the Security Forces. In these operations three extremists of Gulbadin band were killed and four others were taken prisoner (News—Pushto: November 3, 1988).

Samangan

Mujahideen sources: On November 4: Mujahideen attacked Soviet convoys on the Salang Highway near Tangi Kashurgaran.

On November 6: Mujahideen attacked Soviet convoy in Tangi Kashurgaran area. About 20 tanks and trucks were destroyed. Mujahideen lost 5 freedom fighters.

On November 11: Soviet troops evacuated their post at Kaik Tapa. On the same day, Mujahideen ambushed a convoy (somewhere nearby).

On November 12: Mujahideen destroyed 22 tanks and trucks on the Salang Highway in Rabatak area. In this operation 20 Soviet soldiers were believed to have been killed.

On November 15: Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime establishments near Samangan city. Atleast 20 regime troops were killed and 10 vehicles destroyed.

VOA: In Peshawar the Mujahideen of Jamiat-e-Islami Afghanistan have reported that during the last one week they made several attacks on the Soviet Kabul government troops on the Salang Highway. These attacks have started after the use of sophisticated MiG-27 jet bombers by the Soviet Union and the Scud missiles having a range of three hundred kilometres. The Care-Taker Council of Mujahideen of Northern Areas had planned these attacks last week. The Commander of Panjsher Valley is the head of this Council. It has been reported that the first attack was made in the area of Sangi Toshrgan in the province of Samangan on 4th November. Later two more military convoys were attacked in the same area on 6th and 7th of the same month. Sources

say that 54 tanks and trucks were destroyed by the Mujahideen during these attacks (Nov. 12, 1988).

Balkh

Mujahideen sources: On October 20: Mujahideen attacked a security post guarding gas pipe line between Mazar-e-Sharif and Hairatan river port.

On October 29: Mujahideen attacked Russian troops in Dashti Sadyan. Five "Russians" were killed.

On October 30: Mujahideen captured a Kabul regime security post in Bangala area. Thirty-five rifles and a machinegun were captured. Soviet aircraft bombarded liberated areas of Arlat district. A large number of houses were demolished and civilians killed.

VIRA: Mujahideen based in Balkh province fired rockets on Mazar-e-Sharif airport last week, as a result of which an aircraft was destroyed (News—Persian: November 23, 1988).

VOA: The resistance sources say that fierce battles have taken place between the Mujahideen and communist troops in Balkh, Parwan and Ghazni provinces. Shah Mehmood Miankhel from Peshawar reports:

A source of Jamiat-e-Islam organisation says that the Afghan Mujahideen carried out attacks with heavy weapons on the communist positions in Sino and Shadyaho areas in Mazar-e-Sharif on Aqrab 3. The report says that five Soviets were killed and seven wounded in an attack in Shadyaho area. Similarly, the Afghan Mujahideen also attacked two security posts of the Kabul regime in the Tamtilaq area in Balkh province on Aqrab 5, as a result of which six communists were made captive by the Mujahideen. A Mujahid was also killed in the attack. The report adds that the Mujahideen carried out attacks on communist positions in Kishk and Bengalai areas on Aqrab 5. Mujahideen are reported to have captured a large number of weapons. Another report of Jamiat-e-Islami organisation says that the Kabul regime aircraft bombarded a village in Shuzdara Uleswali on Aqrab 1, killing twenty civilians and wounding a large number of others. The bombing also caused heavy loss to the houses.

Radio Kabul: The Afghan armed forces also captured ground-to-ground missiles and 21 mortars in Balkh province (Nov. 5, 1988).

The criminal extremists by using heavy weapons have fired 13 ground-to-ground missiles at the residential area of Balkh Woleswali, as a result of which 5 persons were injured and 4 houses were damaged (News—Pushto: November 10, 1988).

In the Balkh Woleswali, 20 criminal extremists were killed during

operations of the Armed Forces (News—Pushto: November 14, 1988).

Jozjan

Mujahideen sources: On October 20: Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime troops inside Shabargan, provincial headquarters. A number of officers and men were killed and others captured alongwith a quantity of arms and ammunition. Soviet aeroplanes bombed the adjoining rural area from where the Mujahideen were supposed to have come.

Radio Kabul: In Jozjan province, 50 armed extremists were killed during successful military operations (News—Pushto: Nov. 17, 1988).

Sar-e-Pul

Nil report.

Faryab

Mujahideen sources: On October 17: Kabul regime militia commander (Khial Mohammad) joined Mujahideen ranks alongwith 10 others in Almar sub-division.

On October 24: Mujahideen captured military post at Yakabagh in Qaisar district after a closely contested battle. A regime tank was destroyed. Mujahideen lost 2 fighters. On the same day Mujahideen attacked a convoy between Musa and Atakhan.

On November 1: Mujahideen shot down 2 helicopter gunships while they were attacking their positions in Qaisar district.

On November 7: Twenty-eight Kabul regime troops were killed when Mujahideen attacked military posts in Lolash district. Eighteen Mujahideen were also killed in these clashes.

Radio Kabul: Another report from Faryab province says that 35 extremists were wiped out during the successful operations of the Armed Forces in Pukhtoonkot Woleswali yesterday. In these operations 50 extremists were injured and a large quantity of arms and ammunition was seized by the Armed Forces (November 4, 1988).

As a result of mopping-up operations of the Armed Forces in the outskirts of Balkh, Farah and Faryab provinces, 32 armed extremists were killed and 24 others injured (News—Pushto: Nov. 10, 1988).

Badghis

Mujahideen sources: On November 1: Mujahideen attacked regime security posts in Morghab and Badghis districts. Three tanks and an equal number of trucks were hit. Mujahideen on their side had 2 freedom fighters killed and 6 wounded (November 10, 1988).

Herat

Mujahideen sources: On October 24: Mujahideen shot down two Soviet-built jets near Shindand air base. On the same day they exploded a powerful bomb in the Herat TV station building.

On October 26: Mujahideen captured 2 Kabul regime security posts at Qalai Reg in Ingil district.

On October 29: Mujahideen laid an ambush in the outskirts of Herat city, destroying 2 tanks and killing 20 troops. They also shot down an aircraft.

On October 30: Mujahideen attacked a lorry carrying soldiers within the bounds of Herat city.

On November 1: Mujahideen fired rockets on Shindand air base. An ammunition depot was hit and exploded. Several Russians were among the dead.

On November 17: Mujahideen attacked Pashtoon Zarghoon district. Twenty-five regime soldiers were killed. Soviet-Kabul authorities responded by bombing Mujahideen strongholds in the vicinity of Faranjan where six Mujahideen and 3 non-combatants were killed. On the same day Mujahideen waylaid a regime convoy near Adraskan. A tank and 2 other vehicles were destroyed.

On November 22-23: Mujahideen captured the sub-divisional headquarters of Gulran and Qarabagh. The defenders put up stiff resistance and both sides suffered heavy losses. More than 150 regular soldiers and militiamen surrendered to Mujahideen. They also collected large quantities of arms and ammunition, besides army trucks and food, from these two garrison towns.

Radio Tehran: Early this month, Afghan Mujahideen shot down two helicopters of the communist regime in Shindand governorate of Herat province (November 8, 1988).

In two other operations, the Afghan Mujahideen killed 25 Kabul regime troops and destroyed several posts of the communist forces in Pashtun Zarghun Woleswali of Herat province (Nov. 25, 1988).

Mujahideen destroyed several military posts of the communist forces in Herat province during the last two weeks. They killed a number of Kabul government troops there (November 26, 1988).

The Afghan Mujahideen, during their operations in Herat and Farah provinces, killed or injured twenty-seven government troops besides destroying two Soviet-Kabul trenches, two commando jeeps and military vehicles (News-Urdu: November 30, 1988).

Radio Kabul: The Afghan armed forces have also carried out successful operations in Herat province, as a result of which 24 extremists were killed and 19 others wounded (November 15, 1988).

VIRA: The Afghan Mujahideen blocked the Herat-Qandahar highway near Pashtar bridge at the beginning of this month. There they destroyed two military vehicles and all the people on board were killed. The report says that communist troops bombarded the place of incident. As a result of the bombardment, one person was martyred and some shops were damaged (November 8, 1988).

The Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul troops in the vicinity of Herat city recently. A military vehicle and a rocket launching station were destroyed and about one hundred troops killed or injured.

According to another report a military post of the Kabul regime troops was destroyed in Injeel Woleswali of Herat province (News-Pushto: November 13, 1988).

Farah

Mujahideen sources: On October 19: Mujahideen attacked army camping grounds at Bala Baluk. Two tanks were destroyed by rocket launchers. More than 20 regime soldiers were believed to have been killed against 8 of Mujahideen.

On October 23: Mujahideen encircled a Kabul regime force engaged in a "search and destroy" campaign in Aabe Khumra area. Several members of the forces surrendered to Mujahideen and others fled. On the same day, Mujahideen shot down a helicopter in Khake Sufaid area while it was overflying their positions.

On November 3: Mujahideen attacked military posts in Gulistan district. Three tanks were hit.

On November 4: Mujahideen captured headquarters of the Farsi district. The garrison surrendered to Mujahideen without much of a fight.

On November 5: Mujahideen and regime forces clashed in Bala Baluk district.

On November 18: Mujahideen attacked Bakva sub-division twenty troops were killed.

On November 20: Mujahideen and regime forces clashed at Delaram township which lies on Herat-Qandahar Highway. Here the Mujahideen attacked a large convoy which was supposed to be carrying reinforcements to the heavily embattled Qandahar province from Shindand air base.

On November 21: Mujahideen attacked military establishments in Farah city. Mujahideen rockets hit a tank and some government buildings.

Radio Tehran: Afghan Mujahideen killed atleast twenty soldiers of Kabul government in a missile attack yesterday on military installa-

tions in Farah city (November 22, 1988).

Bamiyan

Nil report.

Ghor

Nil report.

Uruzgan

Radio Kabul: The heroic Armed Forces in the course of successful operations in the outskirts of Tirmak city killed 91 extremists, including their 6 ring leaders and injured 20 others (Nov. 18, 1988).

Kabul

Mujahideen sources: On October 31: A large Soviet-Kabul force accompanied by more than 100 tanks and armoured vehicles proceeded to re-open the blocked Kabul-Jalalabad Highway. It clashed with the Mujahideen in the Sarobi region and lost 15 tanks. The number of killed and wounded could not be ascertained. Apparently, the force drove past the hurdles created by the guerillas.

On November 7: The Mujahideen re-appeared on the Highway in strength and took 5 security posts overlooking it. These included Dozakh Kanda, Mahipar and Dand. They also knocked out 6 Soviet-made tanks.

On November 16: Mujahideen attacked military establishments near Qala-i-Qazi. Twenty-six regime troops were killed.

On November 12-13: Kabul regime troops suffered heavy casualties in an encounter with Mujahideen in Paghman area. More than 100 government troops deserted their ranks. Mujahideen captured 3 vehicles, one heavy gun, 4 rocket launchers and a large number of missiles and shells.

On November 15: Armed men fired on Defence Minister Shah Nawaz Tani's car in the security zone of Darul Aman in Kabul city. The Minister escaped, but his driver was killed.

On November 22: Soviet-built aircrafts bombarded Paghman valley, west of Kabul. Two persons were killed and 14 others injured. Twenty houses were demolished. On the same day Mujahideen fired rockets on the regime garrison in Qarabagh.

On November 25: Mujahideen fired rockets on selected areas of Kabul, including Bagrami.

VIRA: In another operation in the Qara-Bagh area of Kabul, the Afghan Mujahideen attacked a supply convoy of the communist forces

heading towards the Kabul airport and seized a huge quantity of spare parts of Soviet-made helicopters and military war planes (News—Urdu: November 2, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Afghan Mujahideen attacked Kabul regime security posts in Paghman besides firing missiles on military centres in Kabul city (November 13, 1988).

A missile was fired on a Soviet-Afghan Air Force base near the Kabul airport killing ten Soviet pilots while twenty others were injured (News—Urdu: November 18, 1988).

BBC: Reports reaching Pakistan say that the Soviet troops are continuing attacks of Scud missiles on Afghan Mujahideen's positions in the east and west of Kabul. Western diplomatic and Afghan sources say that at least 15 missiles were fired. These sources say that more Scud missiles were seen being carried to Kabul by Soviet convoys. A correspondent for BBC in Peshawar says that these attacks are being made at a time when Pakistan has growing concern over the increasing military operations in Afghanistan (November 11, 1988).

VOA: Haji Muhammad Nazir, the central Commander of Ittehad-e-Islami Organisation (Sayyaf group) in Khurd Khun area near Kabul city, arrived in Peshawar from Kabul three days ago. We had a telephonic interview with him regarding the Jihad in and around Kabul. Since the telephone line was disturbed, we present some excerpts from his interview. About Jihad in Kabul, he said:

The morale of the Mujahideen has been very high while carrying out attacks on the positions of the Russian and Kabul regime Communist forces. The Hizb-e-Islami, Ittehad-e-Islami, Jamiat-e-Islami and Hezb-e-Islami (Khalis group) have formed an alliance, called Sangar, in the eastern part of Kabul, which organises joint strategy for the Mujahideen for attacks on the military installations in Kabul city. The Mujahideen have so far fired 170 rockets on military installations since the month of Sartan. These rockets hit government installations and those centres, where the Russians reside. We attacked the Kabul airport five times, as a result of which 8 aircraft and a big arms dump were destroyed. We have attacked almost every area in Kabul, including Pul-Charki military garrison, Darul Aman, the Soviet Embassy and some other centres. All the attacks have been quite successful.

About the Soviet-made Scud missiles, Haji Muhammad Nazir said, these are not effective. He argued that the Mujahideen are very close to Kabul city and the missiles being fired on their strongholds fall far away from their positions.

Asked if the Kabul regime acquired more weapons from the

Soviet Union, will the Mujahideen be able to continue the Jihad?

Haji Nazir: I assure the entire world that any kind of military assistance to the Kabul regime by the Soviet Union can not be effective against the faith and determination of the Islamic forces. By the grace of Almighty Allah, the morale of the Mujahideen is very high. The Kabul regime used every kind of weapon against the Mujahideen, but it bore no fruit.

Haji Nazir said that during the year, the Sangar Alliance has destroyed 56 posts of the Kabul regime in the Kabul city suburbs. He said that the Mujahideen of Sangar Alliance are striving to chalk out a comprehensive plan for further offensives on the military centres in Kabul (Commentary—Pushto: Nov. 16, 1988).

Radio Kabul: As a result of mopping-up operation in Sarobi Wolesswali of Kabul today, twenty-five extremist elements were killed (November 3, 1988).

According to the report of military section of Bakhtar News Agency, the armed extremist groups supported by Pakistan and America fired three ground-to-ground rockets on different residential areas in Kabul today. Two people were martyred and one injured as a result of these rocket attacks (November 6, 1988).

Military correspondent of Bakhtar news agency has further reported that as a result of successful operations of the Armed Forces in outskirts of Deh Sabz Wolesswali of Kabul province, five ground-to-ground missiles, thirty mortar shells and two wireless sets were seized from the extremists (November 10, 1988).

The extremists fired ground-to-ground rockets on Kabul airport on November 13 to hit an Afghan plane. The target was missed but the rockets exploded around the airport killing ten Soviet troops and injuring eleven others.

A spokesman of the Soviet Foreign Ministry, Gennadi Grasimov said in a press conference in Moscow that extremists fired rockets on Kabul international airport when a plane was ready to take off. The extremists wanted to hit the plane but it missed. As a result of the rocket attack, ten Soviet troops were killed and another eleven wounded. The spokesman said that it is not for the first time that rocket attacks were carried on Kabul airport. He added that extremists fire rockets on Kabul city causing human and property losses. The extremists would not dare to carry out such attacks but with the consent of their foreign masters. The spokesman added that their masters provide huge quantities of arms to them and with the help of these arms, the Afghan Opposition is continuing such activities. Mr. Grasimov said that

Pakistan was violating the Geneva Accords and the United States which is a guarantor of these Accords is conniving at those violations. The spokesman said that Soviet Union was desirous of establishing peace and security in Afghanistan and supports the national reconciliation programme. He maintained that though Soviet troops were returning home from Afghanistan, yet such attacks would not go unchecked. The spokesman added that Soviet Union would never allow the killing of its troops and Moscow intended to take retaliatory measures. In view of ugly consequences of the activities of the extremists, the Soviet Union expects that United States and Pakistan will prevent the extremists from carrying out such activities which create obstacles in normalising the situation linked with Afghanistan (News—Urdu: Nov. 11, 1988).

Criminal extremists using heavy arms fired two ground-to-ground missiles at Wards 5 and 6 of the Kabul city yesterday and as a result one person was killed and two others injured.

During the past two days, extremists also launched brutal attacks on Charikar city of Parwan province, killing eight innocent compatriots and injuring twenty others.

Similarly as a result of a bomb blast which was planted by the extremists in Bibi Mahro one person was martyred and another injured (News—Pushto: November 12, 1988).

The Afghan Security Ministry recently arrested three agents of the American Intelligence Service CIA. In this connection the Charge d' Affaires of the US Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Foreign Ministry today and a strong protest of the Afghan government regarding US intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan was handed over to him (News—Pushto: November 20, 1988).

Radio Moscow: Armed Forces of Afghanistan during their operations against irreconcilable opposition armed groups late last week wiped out about 500 extremists. This was reported by the Afghan News Agency Bakhtar yesterday. During the operations, arms depots of extremists were also seized. The Bakhtar stated that these arms are being provided to extremists by Pakistan. The extremists are carrying out rocket attacks on Kabul and other Afghan cities. Moreover, they are also carrying out terrorist activities there. The extremists fired 25 rockets on western part of Kabul on Sunday (News—Urdu: November 1, 1988).

According to Bakhtar News Agency, the Afghanistan army during the operation has eliminated 266 extremists and wounded fifty-three others in nine provinces of the country. Also, a number of extremists were arrested. Security agencies recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition from Kabul University. In this way chances of explosions

by these elements have been minimised (News—Urdu: Nov. 10, 1988).

Thirteen ground-to-ground rockets were recovered in Paghman district of Kabul province which the Afghan extremists intended to fire at the Afghan capital (News—Urdu: November 20, 1988).

Parwan

Mujahideen sources: On October 27: Mujahideen captured Soviet army posts at Tappa and Baig in the neighbourhood of Najrib after a siege lasting over two weeks. Two tanks and 2 other vehicles were destroyed. Mujahideen took about 100 prisoners.

On October 30: Mujahideen attacked security posts in Jabal-us-Siraj with rockets.

On November 4: Mujahideen closed the Salang Highway passing through Parwan province. The Soviets responded by attacking their positions in the surrounding hills with MiG-27 aircraft. Fifteen non-combatants were killed and a larger number wounded during these attacks.

On November 5: Mujahideen attacked a large military convoy on the Salang Highway near the provincial headquarters, Charikar. Approximately 20 tanks and other vehicles were hit.

On November 8 and 9: Mujahideen attacked Soviet-Kabul transport on the Salang Highway. A number of tanks and oil tankers were destroyed.

On November 12: Mujahideen attacked security posts in Charikar and Jabal-us-Siraj areas. More than 30 soldiers were killed and 4 tanks knocked out.

On November 17: Soviet MiG-17 planes bombarded inhabited areas in the Kohistan area.

On November 20: Mujahideen attacked troops in Charikar, killing 5 and capturing two of them. They also fired rockets on a military camp at Sanjdara near Bagram air base.

VIRA: Mujahideen captured a big military centre of Soviet forces in Najrib area. In the operation two tanks and two military trucks of the Kabul regime were knocked out. Two Mujahideen were martyred and 7 others injured (November 5, 1988).

Mujahideen have blocked the Salang Highway north of Kabul which is used by the Russians to return to their country (November 14, 1988).

BBC: Latest reports from Afghan guerillas say that the strategic Salang Highway, a vital hundred-mile link between the capital and Soviet Union has been blocked. Reports still unconfirmed have been circulating in the Pakistani city of Peshawar from where Liz Ducit sent

this report:

Afghan Mujahideen had warned that the blockade would be carried out and observers believe that if any one could do, it is Ahmad Shah Masoud reputed soldier known as the Lion of the Panjsher Valley who controls most of North-eastern Afghanistan. Masoud who heads the Council of the North which governs this area is said to have been preparing military plans to seize Kabul when Soviet troops leave (Newsreel—English: Nov. 13, 1988).

VOA: In Afghanistan Mujahideen units are increasing their military pressure on the major strategic highways of the country including continued attacks on convoys trying to move along the Salang Highway from Kabul to the Soviet Union. VOA's John Shultz has more on this and other Afghan developments:

On November 4th Commander Ahmad Shah Masoud launched attacks to block the Salang Highway and tunnel. He said it was a retaliation for the recent introduction of Soviet medium range missiles, MiG-27s and strategic backfire bombers. The attacks are coming in two areas, part of the North between Baghlan and Mazar-e-Sharif, and much closer to Kabul south of the network of tunnels on the vital main route to the Soviet Union. Mujahideen sources claimed that in five separate attacks in the Northern area from November 4th to 7th they destroyed as many as 78 tanks, other armoured vehicles and trucks. In one attack near Robatak they killed twenty Soviet soldiers. South of the Salang Tunnel network Mujahideen ambushed an Afghan government convoy destroying twenty tanks and trucks (November 14, 1988).

Kapisa

Nil report.

Laghman

Mujahideen sources: On October 23: Mujahideen attacked and captured an important security post at Kabutar Khaney on the Kabul-Jalalabad highway, after a "long struggle". Regime forces lost a number of tanks and heavy guns.

On October 25: Soviet-Kabul armoured units supported by aircraft advanced towards Alinagar, Mangoo and Mandol. Mujahideen put up stiff resistance and the invaders had to retreat. Four Mujahideen were killed and 18 injured. Soviet-Kabul forces lost a large number of soldiers, arms and ammunition.

On November 19: Mujahideen attacked regime troops (somewhere) in Laghman, killing 15 soldiers. Soviet planes attacked Qarya village.

Several houses were demolished and combatants and non-combatants killed.

VIRA: Another report says that the offensive launched by the Kabul Communist regime forces to make headway in Laghman was forced to retreat from that area after suffering heavy losses in men and materials (November 8, 1988).

Logar

Mujahideen sources: On October 26: Mujahideen shelled Pul-e-Alam, headquarters of Logar province. A security post and some other military installations were hit.

On November 2: Mujahideen fired rockets on Pul-e-Alam, hitting among other targets an ammunition dump.

On November 6: The Soviets fired Scud-B missiles on Mujahideen positions at Rokian in Logar province. An eye-witness noted: "The destruction radius of Scud-B missile is the same as that of a "napalm" bomb. Scud-B missiles make a terrible sound and spew flames, which make them easy to see and avoid. These missiles leave a crater some 60 square metres in size, coated with a grey residue".

Radio Kabul: Military correspondent of Bakhtar News Agency has reported that the extremist elements fired ground-to-ground missiles at Ulesupia village of Logar province today. As a result of the firing, two persons were martyred, two others injured, and one mosque was damaged (News-Pushto: November 3, 1988).

According to another report of Bakhtar news agency nine extremists including two Pakistani advisors were killed during the successful operations of the Armed Forces in the outskirts of the Barki Barak Woleswali of Logar province. In these operations one rocket launcher was seized and one vehicle of the enemy loaded with arms and ammunition was burnt down (November 3, 1988).

Wardak

Mujahideen sources: On October 25: Mujahideen shot down two Soviet-made helicopters bombing villages (somewhere) in Wardak province.

On November 14: Mujahideen attacked military posts around Maidan Shehr. Thirty Kabuli troops were killed.

A report received from Wardak said:

"Soviet aircraft, including MiG-27s, are making attacks on and around Maidan Shehr almost every night.

Despite the relative inaccuracy of these bombings, a lot of destruction has occurred. About 50 per cent of civilian homes in the

Maidan Shehr city area have been destroyed in the recent Soviet bombings. Most of its inhabitants have fled to Logar province and to Kabul.

MiG-27s pose specific threat because of their high flying altitude which prevents them from being heard. While the destruction radius of the bombs is 50 metres, shrapnels scatters as far as 200 metres from the point of impact. These bomb explosions make deep craters.

Flames from these bombs burn plants up to 100 metres away (November 30, 1988).

Radio Tehran: The Muslim Afghan freedom fighters in recent operations in Wardak province reportedly killed 14 Kabul troops and seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition including a rocket launcher (November 2, 1988).

In Wardak province, the military commander of Kabul Army Brigadier Hidayatullah and the Chief of Kabul Government's Intelligence Service have been executed on the charge of cooperation with Afghan Mujahideen. Circles close to Afghan Mujahideen have reported that Kabul government held the two persons responsible for the capture of Maidan city by Mujahideen recently (News-Urdu: Nov. 8, 1988).

Reports from Afghanistan say that the Mujahideen destroyed 6 posts of the Communist forces and killed 80 Kabul regime troops in Wardak province (News-Pushto: November 25, 1988).

4 — PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE THEMES

Radio Kabul

Given below are the major Kabul media propaganda themes in November 1988, in descending order of recurrence:

1. Violations of Geneva Agreements is increasing: Supply of arms and training to rebels is on a rise.
2. Mujahideen subversive and inhuman activities are against Islamic tenets and innocent people.
3. National Reconciliation Policy has mass support. It is Islamic and a peace initiative.
4. Imperialist foreign intervention in Afghanistan is increasing in spite of the Geneva Accords.
5. Implementation of Geneva Accords is the only positive way to peace and making sure Soviet-Kabul adherence to it.

Radio Moscow

Given below are the major Moscow media propaganda themes in

November 1988, in descending order of recurrence:

1. Geneva Accords are being violated, increasing foreign intervention in Afghanistan.
2. Pakistan is accumulating sophisticated weapons and has aggressive designs against neighbours.
3. Soviet and Kabul authorities are in favour of strict implementation of Geneva Accords.
4. Mujahideen are indulging in terroristic and inhuman actions.
5. Criticism on Pakistan government's stance on regional and domestic issues.

APPENDIX — 1

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN NOVEMBER 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Human Losses

Soviet Casualties	:	180 killed and	17 wounded
Kabul Casualties	:	617 killed and	677 wounded
Soviet-Kabul Casualties	:	288 killed and	145 wounded
Defections	:	824 Kabul troops defected and	1327 captured
Mujahideen Casualties	:	184 killed and	271 wounded
Afghan Civilian Casualties	:	838 killed and	580 wounded

Soviet-Kabul Material Losses

Aircraft	15	LMGs	75
Helicopters	12	HMGs	74
Tanks	154	Klashnikovs	1679
APCs	84	Missiles	300
HMVs	180	Ammunition Depots	27
Trucks	125	Rocket Launchers	27
Oil Tankers	68	Doshaka	8
Wireless Sets	13	Security Posts	123
Mortars	28	Radio Stations	3
Buildings	7	Food Depot	1
T.V. Station	1	Fuel destroyed	40 tones
Bridge	1	Quantity of Arms and	
Tractors	10	ammunitions	12
Police H.Q.	1	Boxes of Food	228
Jeeps	8	Assorted Weapons	1300
Milking Cows	400	Trucks of full arms and	
Cartridges	10,000	ammunitions	7
Horses Loaded		Rounds of	
with arms	9	ammunition	5,000
Currency (Afghnis)	600,000		
Boxes of ammunition	2,4020		

APPENDIX — 2

ESTIMATE OF LOSSES IN NOVEMBER 1988 SOVIET-KABUL (RADIO KABUL) SOURCES

Mujahideen and Afghan Civilian ("Counter-Revolutionaries") Losses:

Killed	3556	
Wounded	1552	
Captured	85	
Returnees:	(Those availing amnesty, voluntarily surrendering, changing allegiance, joining Soviet-Kabul ranks and Civilian Refugees)	2437

Mujahideen Material Losses:

Stinger missiles	8	
Vehicles	25	
Motorcycles	2	
Doshaka guns	21	+ 150 box of shells besides thousand of assorted shells
Rocket launchers	253	
Klshnikovs	4	
Munition depots	25	+ 2 "Major ones" + 4 cloth, 1 Food and 1 Medical depot.
Ground-to-ground missiles	2061	
Reactivator Units	27	
LMGs	21	+ 4 boxes of shells
HMGs	40	+ 26 boxes of shells
Bases/Hideouts	53	
Mortars	326	+ 2773 shells, 19 boxful
Quantities of Arms and Ammunition	59	boxful + 5 different quantities
Recoilless guns	36	+ 466 shells
Mines (misc)	178	+ 2 Mine depots
Assorted weapons	232	+ Thousands of shells
Cannons	37	+ 575 shells + 5 boxes
Wireless sets	6	

Loss Inflicted by "Counter-Revolutionaries"

Human Losses

Killed	153	Civilians + 10 Soviets + 10 Kabuli
Wounded	193	

Material Losses

Vehicles	7	Houses	117
Shrines	3	Schools	3
Mosques	13	Offices	20
Hospital	1		

APPENDIX — 3

PROVINCEWISE ENGAGEMENTS IN NOVEMBER 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

Provinces	Total Engagements	Provincial Capital	Engagements	
			Inside City	Vicinity of City
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	Zaranj	—	—
Hilmand	10	Lashkargah	—	—
Qandahar	50	Qandahar	13	14
Zabul	3	Kalat Gilzai	1	1
Ghazni	5	Ghazni	—	1
Paktika	—	Sharna	—	—
Paktiya	12	Gardez	—	3
Ningarhar	90	Jalalabad	2	1
Kunar	3	Chagha Sarai	—	—
Nooristan	—	Godwal	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	9	Faizabad	—	4
Takhar	1	Taloqan	1	—
Kunduz	11	Kunduz	1	—
Baghlan	15	Baghlan	2	—
Samangan	9	Samangan	—	3
Balkh	9	Mazar-e-Sharif	—	—
Jozjan	4	Shebergan	—	1
Sar-e-pul	—	Sar-e-Pul	—	—
Faryab	15	Maimana	—	—
Badghis	2	Qala Nau	—	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	21	Herat	—	4
Farah	30	Farah	1	—
(Nimruz)	—	(Zaranj)	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	1	Bamiyan	1	—
Ghor	2	Chaghcharan	—	1
Uruzgan	—	Tarin Kot	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	18	Kabul	3	1
Parwan	22	Charikar	2	3
Kapisa	—	Mahmud-i-Raqi	—	—
Laghman	5	Mehtarlam	—	—
Logar	8	Pul-e-Alam	2	—
Wardak	21	Koteasro	3	2
TOTAL	374		32	39

APPENDIX — 4

**MUJAHIDEEN MOBILE & IMMOBILE TARGETS AND
SOVIET-KABUL OPERATIONS IN NOVEMBER 1988
(MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)**

Provinces	Mujahideen Targets		Soviet-Kabul Operations		Total
	Mobile	Immobile	Air	Ground	
Bordering Pakistan					
Nimruz	—	—	—	—	—
Hilmand	1	3	5	1	10
Qandahar	13	22	14	1	50
Zabul	2	1	—	—	3
Ghazni	2	—	3	—	5
Paktika	—	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	3	3	2	4	12
Ningarhar	17	46	15	12	90
Kunar	—	—	—	3	3
Nooristan	—	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR					
Badakhshan	1	4	3	1	9
Takhar	—	—	—	—	—
Kunduz	4	3	3	1	11
Baghlan	4	11	—	—	15
Samangan	5	4	—	—	9
Balkh	1	3	1	4	9
Jozjan	—	3	1	4	8
Sar-e-pul	—	—	—	—	—
Faryab	3	5	6	1	15
Badghis	—	2	—	—	2
Bordering Iran					
Herat	7	13	1	—	21
Farah	9	18	2	1	30
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces					
Bamiyan	1	—	—	—	1
Ghor	1	—	—	1	2
Uruzgan	—	—	—	—	—
Kabul & Adjacent					
Kabul	5	10	1	2	18
Parwan	11	7	3	1	22
Kapisa	—	—	—	—	—
Laghman	2	2	—	1	5
Logar	—	4	—	2	6
Wardak	2	8	10	1	21
TOTAL:	94	172	71	37	374

* The Soviet-Kabul air operations mentioned in Appendix are definitely under reported. Mujahideen sources usually do not report routine reconnaissance or bombing mission unless there are some casualties on either sides.

APPENDIX — 5

**PROVINCEWISE SOVIET-KABUL SECURITY OPERATIONS
AND RETURNEES IN NOVEMBER 1988
(Radio Kabul)**

Provinces	Soviet-Kabul Operations	Counter-revolutionaries Action	Total Incidents	Returnees
Bordering Pakistan				
Nimruz	—	—	—	256
Hilmand	2	1	3	196
Qandahar	36	5	41	800
Zabul	7	1	8	—
Ghazni	—	—	—	—
Paktika	—	—	—	—
Paktiya	12	12	24	168
Ningarhar	35	10	45	634
Kunar	1	3	4	—
Nooristan	—	—	—	—
Bordering USSR				
Badakhshan	2	—	2	—
Takhar	2	—	2	—
Kunduz	15	—	15	310
Baghlan	6	—	6	—
Samangan	3	3	6	—
Balkh	6	2	8	—
Jozjan	3	—	3	—
Faryab	6	2	8	—
Sar-e-pul	4	3	7	—
Badghis	1	—	1	—
Bordering Iran				
Herat	5	—	5	219
Farah	6	—	6	—
(Nimruz)	—	—	—	—
Central Provinces				
Bamiyan	—	1	1	—
Ghor	1	—	1	—
Uruzgan	3	—	3	—
Kabul & Adjacent				
Kabul	5	14	19	—
Parwan	3	3	6	—
Kapisa	—	1	1	—
Laghman	2	4	6	—
Logar	2	1	3	14
Wardak	2	—	2	—
TOTAL:	164	64	228	2457

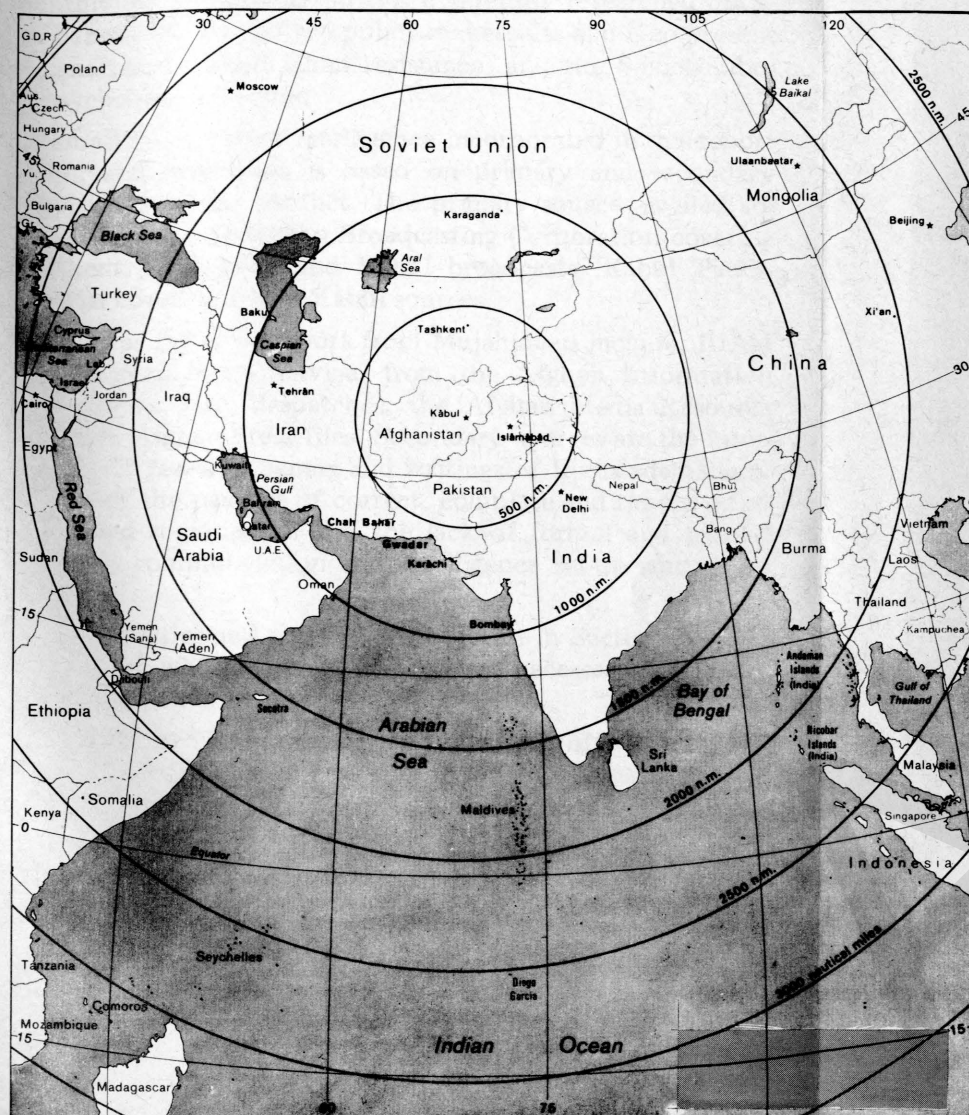
APPENDIX — 6

AFGHAN CIVILIAN HUMAN AND MATERIAL LOSSES IN NOVEMBER 1988 (MUJAHIDEEN SOURCES)

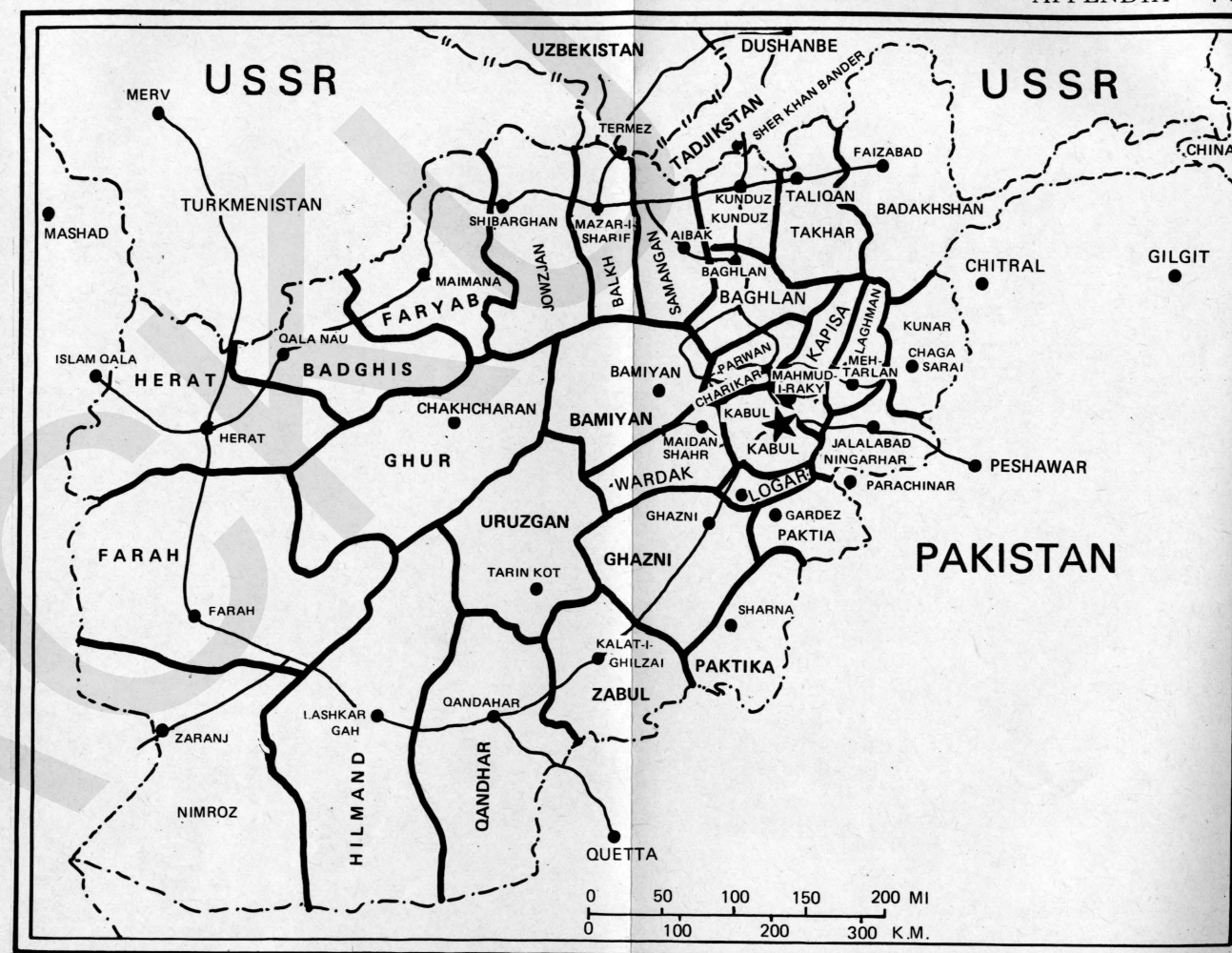
Provinces	Location	Casualties		Houses Destroyed/ Damaged	Date (1988)
		K	W		
Hilmand	Hilmand	25	—	—	02-11
Hilmand	Grishk	21	—	—	02-11
Hilmand	Krash	22	—	5	30-11
Qandahar	Khawaja Malik	26	16	—	26-10
Qandahar	Qandahar	9	—	—	27-10
Qandahar	Mohalajat	—	—	10	30-10
Qandahar	Qandahar	144	150	50	03-11
Paktiya	Zawar	1	4	—	23-11
Ningarhar	Ghanikhel	16	—	—	04-11
Ningarhar	Torkham	—	1	—	08-11
Ningarhar	Batikot	4	—	1	26-11
Ningarhar	Gendighaus	—	—	4	18-10
Badakhshan	Faizabad	95	150	15	
Ningarhar	DehZendan	180	35	80	11-11
Takhar	Talaqan	10	—	—	16-11
Kunduz	Imam Sahib	6	12	5	11-11
Baghlan	Khanjan	5	10	—	04-11
Balkh	Aqkapark	20	—	15	30-10
Jozjan	Shabbar Ghan	3	—	—	28-10
Faryab	Atakhan	12	—	—	24-10
Faryab	Carghali	40	100	10	15-11
Herat	Farangan	3	6	—	17-11
Kabul	Qargha	2	12	10	26-10
Parwan	Salang	15	17	—	04-11
Parwan	Kohistan	25	—	10	17-11
Laghman	Alinagar	—	—	50	20-10
Wardak	Maidan	13	—	10	25-10
Wardak	Maidan	5	—	15	15-11
Wardak	Maidan	—	—	10	26-11
Total 29 Incidents in 16 Provinces		702	513	300	

Note: More than 800 heads of livestock have been killed in five different incidents in Afghanistan.

APPENDIX — 7 A



APPENDIX — 7 B



Mujahideen sources: Conflict reported during November 1988 in 25 provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Nimroz, Paktika, Nooristan, Sar-e-Pul, Uruzgan and Kapisa.

Radio Kabul: Conflict reported during November 1988 in 26 Provinces. Provinces from where no war report received: Nimroz, Ghazni, Paktika, and Sar-e-Pul.

NOTES

The monthly Afghanistan Report is a carefully researched document for the benefit of scholars and policy-makers. Its aim is to present an objective analysis of the Afghan resistance, and the Soviet-Kabul military and psychological warfare.

The information and overt intelligence incorporated in this report after collection, and evaluation is based on primary and secondary sources of all parties in the conflict. The primary sources availed are the monitoring reports of Pakistan Broadcasting Corporation covering Moscow, Tashkent, Dushambe and Kabul broadcasts, Kabul Times, and IBIS material covering Soviet-Kabul sources.

Primary sources for news report from Mujahideen include: IUAM Handouts, A1 Bunyan News Service, from the Afghan Information Centre, Afghan News, HIA despatches, the Afghan Media Resource Centre and Agency Afghan Press files. Secondary sources are the international media, and research papers and writings of the academicians. We are conscious of the paucity of correct, complete and timely information from closed societies, as also the lack of formal and trained command, control, communication and intelligence set-up among the Mujahideen.

Figures of casualties and material losses given in Section 3 are in only those few cases where such inclusions were necessary for proper appreciation of the given events.

Losses reported in "Soviet-Kabul" category are often physically not verifiable by the Mujahideen and therefore mostly speculative.

The reports received and reported are subject to the process of verification, whenever possible, which may include interviewing with those most directly informed on the events.

Dates given in parenthesis in the chapter "Porvincewise Survey Analysis" are of the actual broadcast.

PERIOD COVERED

Facts and figures given in this study are based on reports mostly received during November 1-30, 1988. Appendices 1-7 also incorporate October 1988 incidents reported in November 1988.

II.— POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN AFGHANISTAN

1 — POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

U.N.G.A. Adopt Resolution on Afghanistan

Following is the text of the resolution on Afghanistan adopted by the U.N. General Assembly by consensus on November 3, 1988:

The General Assembly having considered the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the obligation of all States to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of any state.

Reaffirming further the inalienable right of all people to determine their own form of government and to choose their own economic, political and social system free from outside intervention, subversion, coercion or constraint of any kind whatsoever.

Gravely concerned at the situation in Afghanistan which resulted from the violation of principles of the United Nations Charter and of the recognized norms of inter-State conduct.

Noting the conclusion on 14 April, 1988, of the Geneva Agreements relating to Afghanistan, and the partial withdrawal of foreign troops in accordance with the agreed time-frame.

Aware of the continuing concern of the international community over the sufferings of the Afghan people and the magnitude of the social and economic problems posed to Pakistan and Iran by the presence on their soil of millions of Afghan refugees.

Deeply conscious of the urgent need for a comprehensive political solution of the situation in respect of Afghanistan.

Conscious that a successful final political settlement of the Afghan problem would have favourable impact on the international situation and provide an impetus for the resolution of other acute regional conflicts.

Expressing its appreciation to the Secretary General and his personal representative for their efforts to bring about peace and security.

Taking note of the report of the Secretary General and the status of the process of political settlement.

1. Welcome the conclusion on 14 April, 1988, of the Geneva Agreements under United Nations auspices, which constitute an important

step a comprehensive political solution of the Afghanistan problem.

2. Expresses its deep appreciation to the Secretary General of the United Nations and his personal representative for their constant efforts to achieve a political solution of the Afghanistan problem.

3. Calls for the scrupulous respect for and faithful implementation of the Geneva Agreements by all parties concerned who should fully abide by their latter and spirit.

4. Notes the continuing process of withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and expresses its expectation that the withdrawal will be completed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Geneva Agreements.

5. Reiterates that the preservation of the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and non-aligned character of Afghanistan is essential for a peaceful solution of the Afghanistan problem.

6. Reaffirms the right of the Afghan people to determine their own form of government and choose their economic, political and social system free from outside intervention, subversion, coercion or constraint of any kind whatsoever.

7. Calls upon all parties concerned to work for the urgent achievement of a comprehensive political solution and the creation of necessary conditions of peace and normalcy which would enable the Afghan refugees to return voluntarily to their homeland in safety and honour.

8. Emphasise the need for an intra-Afghan dialogue for the establishment of a broad-based and immediate participation of the Afghan people.

9. Requests the Secretary General and his personal representative to encourage and facilitate the early realization of a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan in accordance with the provisions of the Geneva Agreements and of the present resolution.

10. Renews its appeal to all states and national and international organizations to continue to extend humanitarian relief assistance with a view to alleviating the hardship of the Afghan refugees in coordination with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

11. Welcome the appointment of a Special Coordinator for channelling economic and humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan.

12. Calls upon all States to provide adequate financial and material resources to the Special Coordinator for the purposes of the speedy repatriation and rehabilitation of the Afghan refugees in their country as well as for its economic and social reconstruction.

13. Requests the Secretary General to keep member States and the Security Council informed of progress towards the implementation of the present resolution and to submit to member States a report on the

situation in Afghanistan, on progress in the implementation of the Geneva Agreements relating to Afghanistan at the forty-fourth session of the General Assembly.

14. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-fourth session the item entitled "the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

Mujahideen Announce the Formation of 'Shoora'

The Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahideen has passed a bill authorizing the formation of an interim government in Afghanistan which will control all the military and financial assets of the Mujahideen.

Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, the present chief of the Seven-Party Afghan Alliance, told journalists on October 31 that the Mujahideen organizations can continue their non-military activities but all the seven-parties will be obliged to hand over their military and financial affairs to the interim government.

The interim government will be formed after the election of a Shoora comprising all sections of the Afghan society. The Shoora elections, Prof. Rabbani said, will be held within next three months.

More than four hundred members of the Shoora will be elected from 216 districts and 60 sub-districts in Afghanistan. Ten each will also be elected from the seven Mujahideen parties while seats will also be reserved for religious scholars and professionals.

The IUAM chief told the journalists that elections to the Shoora will be indirect as "situation in Afghanistan is not conducive for direct elections".

He also refused to give a firm date for the proposed elections saying that it was not possible until peace was completely restored in his country.

Once elected the Shoora will appoint a head of state for a certain period to be decided later, give vote of confidence for Mujahideen's interim government in Afghanistan, draft and approve laws for running the country in accordance with the Islamic Sharia, approve the interim government's budget, conduct all negotiations for ceasefire and endorse international treaties.

The head of state appointed by the Shoora will nominate some body from the elected body as Prime Minister. The Prime Minister will then have to seek a vote of confidence from the Shoora before forming his cabinet.

The government will be responsible to the Shoora which will also have the right to remove the head of state, the Prime Minister or the entire cabinet with a two-third majority.

Prof. Rabbani said survey teams have already been formed to visit the areas under Mujahideen control. The teams will call on local Mujahideen commanders and other prominent people to finalize the election to the Shoora members, according to him, will be elected with general consensus in a constituency, otherwise the existing authoritative councils of Mujahideen will be asked to nominate a representative from the constituency where the people fail to arrive on a consensus.

Prof. Rabbani said that every body will be allowed to participate in the government but not the traitors. The participants, he said, will have to share the Islamic ideals of the Afghan people and have sympathy for the Jihad.

He said people living in the areas under Mujahideen control will be able to vote so will be the Mujahideen living in Pakistan, Iran and other places.

Najib Highlights the Achievements of National Reconciliation

Speaking at the grand session of the Supreme Commission of the National Reconciliation Council in Kabul, President Najibullah said, "the Government has made many significant achievements in the implementation of national reconciliation, during the period of 22 months since the proclamation of that policy.

During this period constitution of the country was approved while Geneva Accords were also signed. Under the policy of national reconciliation more than 175,000 refugees have returned to the country, more than 60,000 armed extremists have joined the national reconciliation policy while during this period 18,000 prisoners have been released.

Both Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have been strictly adhering to the contents of Geneva Accords. But Pakistan and United States have constantly been supplying arms and ammunition to the armed extremists and imparting training to them for subversive activities inside Afghanistan. Half of the Soviet limited contingents have already been withdrawn from Afghanistan. But following the withdrawal of Soviet troops from various parts of the country, the armed extremists have escalated their armed activities. More than 750 civilians including women and children have been killed as a result of rocket attacks by the armed extremists on Kabul city since the beginning of the Soviet troops withdrawal from Afghanistan.

We have made proposals for talks with the opposition several times in order to secure restoration of peace and security and an end to bloodshed in the country. We have even offered that if Saudi Arabia agrees to play host, we are prepared to hold talks in Makkah, so that the way is paved for ending the bloodshed.

We have all necessary arrangements for the return of Afghan refugees and for this purpose we declared some areas as non-military zones but the armed extremists exploited the situation and escalated their subversive activities. As such the suspension of withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Afghanistan is a logical reaction to the situation. We have also equipped our armed forces with modern weapons which is our legal right for the defence of the national sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of our country and for maintaining peace and security in the country.

In view of these circumstances, we have decided to approach the UN Secretary General for help in the implementation of Geneva Accords. We have also decided to propose the convening of an international conference for the implementation of Geneva Accords, ending bloodshed in Afghanistan, setting up a broad-based coalition government which should be entrusted with the task of arranging ceasefire and holding general elections, convening of Loya Jirga and establishing peace in the country.

He said the opposition so far has not accorded any positive response to our peace proposals for talks. President Najib said the enemies do not want that peace should be restored in our country. But, he said we are determined to accomplish our goal of the establishment of peace in our country and to end the fratricidal war which has caused heavy losses and miseries to our people (Radio Kabul: November 26, 1988).

Soviet's Support to National Reconciliation Reaffirmed

A senior Communist Party Official has on behalf of the Soviet leadership, voiced full support for the Afghan government's NR policy. The Secretary of the Party's Central Committee was speaking at the meeting with Prime Minister Mohammad Hassan Sharq, in Kabul, on November 12. Later in the day, he spoke at a launch given by President Najibullah. He said that the Soviet Union strictly complied with the Geneva Accords, which created all the necessary conditions for an end to the bloodshed. However, the Soviet official added, the irreconcilable opposition, directed from Peshawar in Pakistan, attacked defenseless Afghan homes with rockets and shells. He said that all those, who are trying to frustrate NR, should know that the Afghan army would have the necessary assistance to protect the peaceful population from barbaric attacks. President Najibullah, in his speech, thanked the Soviet people for their firm support for Afghanistan's righteous course. On the same day the Secretary of the Soviet Communist Party CC met the Soviet troops contingent commander General Boris Gromov, to discuss matters to be taken before the withdrawal of the remaining Soviet

troops to encourage the combat power of the Afghan army (Radio Moscow, 13 November).

Mujahideen-Soviet Talks

The Chairman of the Afghan guerilla coalition, Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani has said that direct talks are to be held soon with the Soviet Union, on the exchange of prisoners of war. He was speaking at a news conference at the UN Headquarters, in New York, after meeting the Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar. Professor Rabbani said, the Mujahideen wanted direct talks with Russians on all issues except one, the formation of a future government of Afghanistan. This he suggested was a matter for the Afghans themselves. Among the matters which could be discussed were the future relationship between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, ways of bringing peace to the country and the question of the prisoners of war. As far as prisoners are concerned, he said, the Soviet Embassy in Islamabad had issued a statement saying that the Soviet Union had appointed a team to talk directly to the Mujahideen on this issue. Professor Rabbani said, the Mujahideen had also appointed a team and the talks would start soon. He added that the Alliance was also keen to take the Russians on the question of clearing mines in Afghanistan. Professor Rabbani emphasized that any direct talks with the Soviet Union, should be held at the highest level, a level which had the authority to make decisions (BBC: November 11, 1988).

According to a report from Islamabad, President of the Peshawar based seven party alliance, Burhanuddin Rabbani has expressed willingness for meeting Yuli Vorontsov, in the capacity of the Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister in Peshawar or at any other place. He was appointed Soviet Ambassador in Kabul a few days ago (VIRA: Oct. 31, 1988).

Soviet officials have held talks with representatives of Afghan guerilla movement for the first time since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, nearly nine years ago. Officials from the Soviet Embassy met two guerilla representatives in the Pakistani capital Islamabad. The question of Soviet soldiers captured by the Afghan rebels was said to have been the main subject discussed. One of the Guerilla representatives said they also raised the question of their own men, who were held prisoners as well as discussed the Soviet troops withdrawal. He said the guerillas have assured the Soviet officials that once they formed a government in Kabul, it will be non-aligned and non-hostile towards the Russians (BBC: November 28, 1988).

Towards A Political Settlement

The Soviet Union says, there cannot be any political settlement to

the Afghan issue without the participation of the present government in Kabul. A Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Moscow that Pakistan and Afghan rebels should accept this reality. Meanwhile, Moscow has sent a senior Communist Party leader to Kabul for talks with President Najib on the worsening situation in Afghanistan. The talks will also cover the Soviet-Afghan military and economic cooperation (AIR: November 12, 1988).

The Afghan President, Dr. Najibullah is reported to have requested King Hussain of Jordan to mediate for holding peace talks with the Afghan rebels in Makkah, Saudi Arabia. The Soviet News Agency TASS said Dr. Najib sent a message to King Hussain urging him to contact Saudi Arabia's leadership to organize the peace talks and invite members of the Afghan opposition to attend them (AIR: Nov. 24, 88).

Prof. Burhanuddin Rabbani has said that Mujahideen are prepared for any peaceful settlement in Afghanistan. After a meeting with the UN Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar, Prof. Rabbani demanded establishment of such a broad-based government in which pro-Soviet-Kabul government is not included. He also demanded direct talks with the Soviet Union about the time-table of the Soviet forces withdrawal from Afghanistan. A day before Prof. Rabbani's visit, the Afghan Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq had held meeting with the UN officials for making appeal to hold an international conference for the establishment of peace in the country. Prof. Rabbani said that he is prepared to cooperate with the UN efforts for the establishment of peace. The Mujahideen leader is now in Washington to seek support for a future non-communist government in the country (VOA: November 11, 1988).

The Afghan Prime Minister, Mohammad Hassan Sharq has suggested to convene an International Conference under the auspices of the United Nations to establish guarantees of his country's neutral status and demilitarization under international control. As he spoke at a news conference at the United Nations Headquarters in New York, the Afghan Prime Minister said that such a conference would give the Afghan people a peaceful life and prevent another war in future (Radio Moscow: November 10, 1988).

Afghan President, Najibullah has called on the United Nations Secretary General to organize an international conference on Afghanistan. Dr. Najibullah said the conference could determine the neutral, non-aligned status of his country. He said participants would also discuss demilitarization as well as guarantees for defending human rights and political freedom. He said the meeting could prepare a programme for aid to the war torn nation (VOA: October 31, 1988).

The United Nations Secretary General Mr. Perez de Cuellar is to take over full responsibility for helping the Afghan people reach an internal political settlement on the country's future. Mr. Cuellar is taking over from his special representative on Afghanistan, Mr. Diego Cordovez. The move has been long expected. Mr. Cordovez has been Foreign Minister of Ecuador since December and diplomats have questioned whether he could continue his work on Afghanistan from Quito. They also pointed out that any representatives of the Secretary General, needed the full confidence of both sides to promote an internal settlement in Afghanistan. And that Mr. Cordovez had alienated one of the key players in this process, the seven party Afghan Mujahideen alliance. Recently he accused that leaders are being so divided that they were paralysed and alleged that they took only negative positions. His suggestions that the former Afghan King could play a role in helping to establish a future government in Afghanistan has also ranked with the Mujahideen as that his call for the setting up of a Loya Jirga or traditional tribal council. At a recent news conference at the United Nations the current chairman of the Alliance Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani made it clear that the Mujahideen were no longer prepared to deal with him. He said Mr. Cordovez had failed in his mandate by taking side against the Afghan people and the Mujahideen. At the same time the alliance stressed its deep respect for the Secretary General. Diplomats say the Secretary General, himself was annoyed of some of Mr. Cordovez's more outspoken comments towards situation, which required delicate handling and felt that his special representative could be using his position to gain personal publicity. Recently Mr. Cordovez was noticeable by his absence when the Secretary General and Afghan Prime Minister met at the UN Headquarters in New York (BBC: November 23, 1988).

2 — ECONOMIC AND SOCIO-CULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS

Contract Signed

A contract on delivery of equipment of 220 kw Kabul-Pul-e-Khumri power station costing 3,657,000 roubles including its insurance, was signed on November 2 between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. In accordance with this contract, financed by a credit signed in April 1988, the equipment will be delivered in 30 months, through Hairatan port to the Afghan side. A spokesman of the Ministry of Water and Power said that by receiving the said equipment the construction and assembling work of the Kabul-Pul-e-Khumri 220 kw power station will start (Kabul Times: November 3, 1988).

A protocol on transportation was signed on November 12, within the framework of the military and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union. The protocol was signed on behalf of Afghanistan by Sayed Ammanuddin Amin, Deputy Prime Minister and for the Soviet Union by Egor Sufliov (ph) Deputy Chairman of the Joint Afghan-Soviet Cooperation Commission and Chairman of Administrative Department of the Council of Ministers of the Soviet Union (Radio Kabul: November 14, 1988).

New Projects Approved

The standing commission of the council of Ministers for the local and foreign investment met on October 20, 1988 with Syed Ammanuddin Amin, Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Economic Consultative Council in the chair. In this session 16 projects with an initial capital of Afghanis 1469 million in different spheres of industrial production were approved. These projects are:—

1. Joint-Stock company in Kabul.
2. Ningarhar Ordinary and pressure cooker production project, Jalalabad city.
3. Ahmad Haddi pressure cooker producing project Kabul.
4. Herat Ltd. metal works Herat city.
5. Sar-e-Pul and Ningarhar construction units, Sar-e-Pul province and Jalalabad.
6. Shinsai Ltd., construction unit, in Ghazni province.
7. Zalmai Hamid brick producing project, Kabul.
8. Ulomi and Herat Ltd. Ice Project, in Lash Kargah and Herat cities.
9. Paktia cattle breeding project Kabul.
10. Ariyan Ltd., Transport Enterprise, Sheberghan city.
11. Carvan Leather Processing Project Kabul.
12. Sadiqyar Ltd., condensed Oxygen Project Pul-e-Charkhi Industrial Estate, Kabul.
13. Suhrab bakery project, in Herat province (Kabul Times: November 1, 1988).

Trade

Sayed Ammanuddin Amin, Deputy Prime Minister, met with the delegation of the Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia on November 24. BIA reports, during the meeting, discussions were held on future expansion of trade relations and acceleration of performance and implementation of industrial projects, which are to be chartered by the Afghan private sector and Czechoslovakia, in the Republic of Afghanis-

tan (Radio Kabul: November 26, 1988).

Disruption in Supplies

Mujahideen have started their heavy attacks on the enemy's military positions between Torkham and Jalalabad, late last month. Islamabad based western diplomats say that due to the fighting an acute shortage of meat, sugar and bread has been caused in Kabul. Several edibles are exported to Afghanistan from Pakistan, but the trade remains blocked on Torkham-Jalalabad highway. Western diplomatic sources say that stock of edible oil is becoming short in Kabul. Several nan (bread) shops have been closed down. According to the sources shortage of food supplies has also taken place through the northern Salang route. Besides, petrol and diesel are also transported to Kabul through this very route and shortage of petrol and diesel is also faced in the capital. The diplomatic sources have pointed out two reasons of this shortage. Firstly, the supply of power is affected because of constant sabotage by the Mujahideen in the eastern areas. Beside oil can be imported from the USSR through the Salang Highway but there is a shortage of oil tankers. According to the Western diplomatic sources, these days a Soviet delegation of Communication Experts is in Kabul. The allocation is said to have offered sufficient number of oil tankers which need Afghan drivers to ply on Salang Highway, but they are not willing to drive on that highway, despite offers of heavy payments. Local citizens who are wealthy flee abroad in large number every day. As such the number of those seeking visas for India and the United States has increased (VOA: November 20, 1988).

Civil Unrest in Qandahar

Afghan resistance sources say that a big demonstration was staged against the Afghan regime in Qandahar. All the city shops were closed. The demonstration was staged as a mark of protest against KHAD and militiamen who looted the people. In the recent days, Jauzjani militiamen and members of KHAD, who were satisfied over the absence of the Mujahideen in the city started looting the people. The sources of Hizb-e-Islami Maulavi Khalis group say that residents of the city complained but no body listened to them. Therefore, residents of the city closed their shops as a mark of protest on November 5, and held a demonstration. They marched towards the residents of the Governor of Qandahar. The resistance sources say that security forces of the communist regime in Qandahar city made abortive attempt to check the demonstrators. A number of demonstrators entered the Governor's House. The government troops deployed in the surrounding posts of the Governor's House

opened fire on the demonstrators, killing three and wounding five others. Two militiamen were captured by the demonstrators and both were beaten to death. The report says that situation in Qandahar city is still tense and all the shops in the city remained closed till November 10 (VOA: November 12, 1988).

German Doctors Released

Two members of the German Emergency Doctors' Committee who had been imprisoned in Afghanistan have been released. Afghan troops handed them over to the German Embassy in Kabul. Both the Germans had been arrested in early September on suspicion of espionage (VOG: November 9, 1988).

Indo-Afghan Cultural Cooperation

The first seminar on cultural relations and cooperation between Afghanistan and India, during Middle Ages was inaugurated in the Sayed Jamaluddin Hall of the Kabul University Library on October 29. The seminar sponsored by the History and Philosophy Faculty of Kabul University, was organised by the Ministry of Vocational and Higher Education of Republic of Afghanistan. The seminar was attended by Professors of different faculties of Kabul University and Islamic University, Members of the Writers Association, scholars and researchers of the Indo-Afghan Friendship Association (Kabul Times: November 2, 1988).

3 — REPATRIATION AND RECONSTRUCTION

A four-member team of United Nations has returned to Geneva after a six-week visit to eastern and north eastern Afghanistan. The Coordinator of the UN Aid to Afghanistan, Prince Saddruddin announced that the donor countries have promised so far to provide a little over 880 million dollars for reconstruction of Afghanistan but there is a need to prepare relief programme after considering all the pros and cons before using the aid. The delegation only visited the areas not in control of the Afghan government. Prince Saddruddin said that it makes no difference because the United Nations has very cordial relations with all the concerned parties in Afghanistan. He said that he himself has very good relations with Afghan government and good people of Afghan government will not be ignored. He said that the sentiments expressed by Afghans for freedom of their country is very encouraging. Referring to the Soviet aid, he said that all the assistance under UN flag will be acceptable, the aid promised by the Soviet Union also includes some foodgrains. Prince Saddruddin also said that another UN

team will also be sent to western areas of Afghanistan via Iran. The team that recently returned from Afghanistan was led by a French man who gave details of his forty-five days visit. During their visit he and his team travelled sometimes on foot and sometimes on mules. He said the team was warmly welcomed everywhere. They were accompanied by six-Afghans three of them belonging to the seven party alliance based in Peshawar. He said the members of four other parties were also not against them. He said their travel was difficult and troublesome and one Afghan died on the third day of the journey due to severe cold. The team witnessed large scale destruction but at some places like Panjsher there was complete destruction (BBC: November 26, 1988).

Repatriation

Since the proclamation of the national reconciliation policy 1,89,900 of compatriots have returned to their homeland. A source of the Ministry of Repatriation said, of them 94,505 have come from Pakistan and 73,168 from Iran and other countries. The private properties of these repatriates including apartments, inns and residential houses were returned to 90 of them. The report adds: "more than 2,500 persons were given their previous posts" (Kabul Times: November 5, 1988).

According to Peshawar based, Assistant Commissioner for Afghan Refugees, Mr. Ahmed Akhtar, thousands of Afghan families belonging to Afghan province of Ningarhar, crossed the border last week. As fighting is continuing between Mujahideen and government troops in Jalalabad, thousands more are expected to migrate to Pakistan. The target of 'Scud' missiles is reported to be Ningarhar province and there have also been reports of bombing (BBC: November 13, 1988).

Social

The United Nations report says that though human rights conditions in Afghanistan have been improved last year, yet the efforts to persuade Afghan refugees to return home have failed. The UN report on human rights issued on November 17, says that the number of political detenus has decreased and conditions in jails have improved. The report adds that there is no restriction on religious freedom of Muslim population by the government. However, the report says that more than 5 million Afghan refugees have refused to return home due to the presence of Soviet troops in the country. According to the report most of the government guest houses established for the returning refugees are lying vacant (VOA: November 18, 1988).

Afghan Resistance

Afghan leaders of the seven party political alliance in Pakistan are to send a delegation to Tehran on an assessment mission. Its task is to report on the conditions of Afghan refugees in Iran. The Alliance's delegation also wants to explain their plans, select representatives to Shoorā or National Council which is to form the basis for a new government. But they said, they don't expect to hold formal meetings with the eight Afghan parties based in Iran (BBC: November 24, 1988).

President Reagan met with Afghan resistance alliance leader Professor Burhanuddin Rabbani, at the White House. Professor Rabbani was in the United States to gain American support for a new government in Afghanistan which would succeed the current Soviet-backed Communist regime. Following the fifteen minutes meeting with President Reagan, a statement from White House Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater reiterates the administration's disappointment with the Soviet decision to suspend its troops withdrawal from Afghanistan. At the same time the US government still expects the Soviet Union to complete the troops pull out by February 15th. The use of extensive bombing raids and long range missiles against the resistance, Fitzwater called this action disturbing but futile. He went on saying, American support for the Afghan resistance and Pakistan will continue (VOA: November 10, 1988).

The leader of the Hizb-e-Islami Afghanistan, Mr. Gulbadin Hikmatyar has stressed on the support of Mujahideen to the holding of general elections in Afghanistan following the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from that country. Addressing the British Parliamentarians in London, Mr. Hikmatyar said that the Mujahideen support holding of elections for the formation of a Shoor (Radio Tehran: Nov. 13, 1988).

King Zahir Shah Ready to Serve His Nation

The former Afghan ruler, 72 years old King Zahir Shah, who has been living in exile since 1973, has said that he is willing and ready to service his nation. In an interview to VOA, Zahir Shah said, in the wake of continuation of war in Afghanistan, it has become necessary that an interim government, acceptable to the majority of Afghan people should be established there. He also proposed to call traditional high gathering of tribes, the Loya Jirga so that such a government is formed, which could bring the bloodshed to an end and assure the Afghans that they will have the privilege to choose their future political system through the right of self-determination. He said in my opinion, all the Afghans without any discrimination should have the right of self-determination and privilege to participate in the reconstruc-

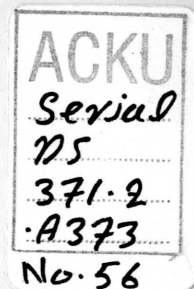
tion process of the country. He said the "future Afghan government should be a moderate and Islamic one". Zahir Shah went on to say that he consider it necessary to tell here that Islam is a moderate religion. He stress that temperance should be exercised in every field of life. One of the Islamic teachings is that there should be moderation in every field of life (VOA: November 21, 1988).

New Appointments

A meeting of the Afghan Ulusi Jirga was held in Kabul on November 15, which was attended, among others by Prime Minister, Dr. Mohammad Hassan Sharq and Mr. Mohammad Aslam Watanyar. At the end of the meeting Mr. Aslam Watanyar's appointment as Interior Minister was approved (Radio Kabul: November 15, 1988).

The Afghan Government has announced that the Interior Minister, Said Mohammad Gulabzai has been appointed as the new Afghan Ambassador to the Soviet Union. Gulabzai is a leader in the Khalq faction of the PDPA. Newsmen say that clear aspect of his appointment is to bring to an end opposition to the government's strategy about fighting in Afghanistan. Gulabzai preferred the military defeat of the Afghan Mujahideen. On the other hand, President Najibullah who is the leader of Parcham faction, supports political settlement of the Afghan problem, which includes broad-based government in Afghanistan (BBC: November 9, 1988).

Under a Presidential decree, President Najibullah has appointed Nizamuddin Tehzeeb, as Chief Justice of the Republic of Afghanistan and Abdul Karim Shadan was appointed as Chief of the Special Tribunal of the National Security (Radio Kabul: November 2, 1988).



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